WRESTLING FORUM
1987 YEARBOOK

BY JON GALLAGHER

AND THE STAFF OF WRESTLING FORUM

SEAN GRANDE
ED GAREA
JEFF SIEGEL

WITH A SPECIAL COLUMN BY
GREG ANDERSON
PACIFIC NORTHWEST YEAR IN REVIEW

CONTENTS

SECTION ONE.....YEAR END AWARDS
SECTION TWO.....1987 TITLE HISTORIES
WRESTLING FORUM'S JEOPARDY
SECTION THREE.....FEATURE: COMPETING WITH THE REST
SECTION FOUR.....YEAR IN REVIEW
PHANTOM OF THE RING
JEOPARDY ANSWERS/QUESTIONS

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THE YEAR END AWARDS

The following pages are a complete listing of all of our year end awards as voted by the readers of Wrestling Forum. We have made every attempt to be as accurate as we could, although some typographical errors always seem to find their way onto the pages.

In all, ninety four ballots were cast this year, fifty more than what we had last year. You will find the winners listed along with every single vote getter; even if that nominee got only ½ of a total point. Along with the winners and losers, you will find VOTING NOTES, a look at how the balloting ran and some interesting side notes about the category and nominees. There is also a section for readers comments after each category with selected excerpts from your ballots. Several people requested their names be withheld, but each was at least assigned a number for consistency.

Scattered in among the awards are some short pieces called Wrestling Forum Year Book Extras. It's hard to tell what you might find here.

We hope you enjoy the section that you the fans helped put together. I enjoyed it because finally it's something you can't blame the editor for (ha-ha).

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR

When considering a wrestler to be named "Wrestler of the Year", one must consider several aspects before making a choice. Among those are ability to draw, heat generated, work rate, consistency, and the amount of matches he has over a year's period. This year's Wrestler of the Year category as more heated than last's. Ric Flair, however, proved to be the smart fans' choice for the secondyyear in a row by handily defeating Hulk Hogan in this poll.

WRESTLER	1st place	2nd place	3rd place	total points
RIC FLAIR	31	15	16	139
Hulk Hogan	28	10	6	110
Randy Savage	9	17	19	80
Ted DiBiase	10	13	8	64
Curt Hennig	1	14	15	46
Riki Choshu	5	5	3	28
Barry Windham	3	2½	6	20
Honky Tonk Man	1	4	2	13
Jerry Lawler	0	3	2	8
Terry Taylor	1	2	0	7
Bam Bam Bigelow	1	0	1	4
Dusty Rhodes	1	0	0	3
Ricky Steamboat	1	0	0	3
Tully Blanchard	0	1½	0	3
Owen Hart	0	1	1	3
Bret Hart	0	1	1	3
Antonio Inoki	1	0	0	3
Don Muraco	1	0	0	3
Zen Karas	1	0	0	3
Sherri Martel	0	1	0	2
Bambi	0	0	1	1
Davey Boy Smith	0	0	1	1
Eddie Gilbert	0	0	1	1
King Kong Bundy	0	0	1	1
Andre the Giant	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Hogan led Flair through the first couple of weeks of voting until shortly after Starrcade. Flair then made it close before finally pulling ahead to stay during the middle of December. Last year, Flair was never challenged for the lead, winning the category 102-27 over Ted DiBiase who placed fourth this year. Interesting that Hogan only was able to generate 19 points last year, however, his ability to draw 93,000 fans to this year's Wrestlemania played a major factor in his second place finish. In all, twenty five wrestlers were named on the ballots as compared to twenty seven nominees last year.

READERS COMMENTS:

JEFF BOWDREN: 2nd, Hulk Hogan. Give the credit for the 93,000 HE put in the Silverdome. 1st, riki Choshu. Changed the entire face of pro wrestling in his country by jumping promotions. To put in perspective, think what would happen if Flair or Hogan jumped to a rival promotion.

JOSEPH COUGHLIN: I got to see Flair live for the first time live this year and I was dazzled. The career moves aspect, well, i think Ric gets a lot of his strings pulled FOR him and doesn't have as much pull as we might wan to think...for action and drama, I've never seen anyone look better than Flair.

GARY FISHMAN: Flair is the only wrestler in the United States that I can count on every single time to put on a very good to fantastic match. Whether or not his antics are in "good taste" all the time, he works for the fans, night after night. He can carry fair and awful wrestlers to excellent matches and in that sense he is very much responsible for making it seem that some of Crockett's questionable babyface wrestlers (Dusty, Nikita, Jim garvin, etc) are legitimately good wrestlers. I've seen DiBiase live twice this year and neither match can begin to approach even Flair's worst night.

JOE LILLY: Hulk Hogan has had the greatest impact on Pro Wrestling all throughout this year. The attention that was focused to his match with Andre the Giant at Wrestlemania III was immense. I believe that the success of the most widely talked about event of all time, and possibly the match up of all time, is due to Hogan's impact on pro wrestling.

NAME WITHHELD: I would just like for those people who have the gall to vote for Flair again, how they could ever be that stupid or blind. They are voting for a fine wrestler, possibly the best in the world. But the bottom line is this: Flair couldn't sell 93,000 seats in a week, let alone one day! That's why the only choice for wrestler of the year (as much as I hate to say it) can only be Mr. Hogan.

ROBERT MOORE: 1) Flair, 2) Choshu, 3) Savage. Flair and Choshu are very close; however, Flair gets my pick because I see a bit more of him and because of my overwhelming respect for him.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Barry Windham - solid on all fronts; never poorlive in Chicago. 2) Ted DiBiase - great character in WWF, solid in the ring as always. 3) Ric Flair - hard worker and all, but act in ring and behind microphone is S-T-A-L-E!

RALPH OBLOZA: 1) Hogan - How can anyone say he's not in top three in impact??? 2) Flair, 3) Andre the Giant - everyone thought Wrestlemania III would be a <u>moderate</u> success or a flop, but Andre was one half of what it took to make it the phenomenal success it was.

DON G. SMITH: In the eyes of the general public, Hogan's name is synonymous with pro wrestling. 1987 may well be remembered as the pinnacle of his career....second is DiBiase. Rarely has a career move caused such excitement...third is Flair. If there aren't some shake ups in Crockett Country, this may be Flair's last year of contention for the wrestler of the year. He's still Crockett's top gun, but both Ric and his repetitious match ups are getting very stale.

JACK ORTIZANO: Hogan carried Andre for 11 minutes just once and some people believe he's wrestler of the year. Flair carried several wrestlers, sold like crazy, did jobs and worked hard...

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

SHANE DOUGLAS

Our definaition of a rookie is "any wrestler who debuted on a major circuit between September 15, 1986 and December 31, 1987". Rookie of the year candidates should be young wrestlers who not only made a sub-=stantial impact on the sport in the past year, but also ones who have he potential for greatness in the future. This year's winner, Shane Douglas, made waves this year in the Universal Wrestling Federation by winning the TV title there. Douglas, who has wrestled for a couple of years for some independent promotions in Pennsylvania as Troy Orndorff, showed good promise before being let go shortly after the Crockett take over of the UWF. As we go to print, Douglas was unsure of his future and at present was working the independent circuit once again.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
SHANE DOUGLAS	33	26	3	154
Paul E Dangerously	19	14	11	96
Brian Pillman	20	4	6	74
Doug Furnas	4	3	8	26
Ron Simmons	3	5	6	25
Johnny Ace	3	5	2	21
Biff Wellington	0	4	3	11
Mitch Snow	1	2	0	7
Terminator	0	2	1	5
Chris Champion	1	0	0	3
Outback Jack	1	0	0	3
Scott Peterson	0	0	3	3
Keichi Yamada	0	1	0	2
Shaun Simpson	0	1	0	2
Jason the Terrible	0	1	0	2
Medusa Micelli	0	0	2	2
Derrick Dukes **	0	0	1	1
Jim Powers	0	0	1	1
Sean Royal	0	0	1	1
New Breed	0	0	1	1

**Derrick Dukes will again be eligible next year because he worked this year with Ed Sharkey's Pro Wrestling America promotion.

VOTING NOTES: There were other wrestlers who were named on ballots that were not considered rookies. Here are their totals (number in parenthesis are the number of years they have wrestled): Brady Boone 2-2-0-10 (3 years), Owen Hart 2-0-1-7 (2 years), Honky Tonk Man 1-0-0 (7), Sherri Martel 1-0-0-3 (4), Gary Young 1-0-0-3 (6), Warlord 0-1-0-2 (2), Sam Houston 0-1-0-2 (5), Larry Zbyszko 0-1-0-2 (13), Bubba Rogers 0-0-1-1 (3), Bam Bam Bigelow 0-0-1-1 (2).

Douglas' lead was never really in jeopardy as he led from the very beginning. Paul E Dangerously's second place finish says something about the crop of rookies this year as the rookie manager was able to finish so high. Road warrior Animal has two brothers listed with Johnny Ace and the Terminator both picking up votes. Stu Hart's Calgary Stampede promotion did well with a 3rd place finish, a 7th and a 15th. Interesting that readers named Chris Champion

and Sean Royal in addition to also naming the New Breed as a tag team.

READERS'' COMMENTS;

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd, Ron Simmons. Strictly on what I think he MAY become. With his athletic ability, he should become a bigger star than Butch Reed. Time will tell. 2nd, Shane Douglas. Nothing spectacular, but a solid worker. 1st, Brian Pillman. A guy who is already a top worker, but needs to tone down the rebellious attitude before he'll get booked.

TRENT WALTERS: (On his number 3 choice)...Dangerously - the only reason to watch the AWA.

ROBERT MOORE: Pillman and Douglas are both good, but I feel that Douglas had just about fulfilled his potential where as Pillman could get much better.

LANCE LEVINE: Shande Douglas...looked great when thrust into major feuds in the UWF; showed great promise and hopefully will land somewhere he can develop more in 1988.

RALPH OBLOZA: 1) Paul E Dangerously, if he qualifies, no one touches him. Could save the AWA. 2) Johnny Ace, 3) Scott Peterson (over Shane Douglas) because that whole UWF rookie push seemed so forgettable to me.

NAME WITHHELD #1: I'm not voting in this category. Why? Because all the promotions today are too afraid to use a rookie wrestler. They won't take the chance on an unknown for two reasons. Either they are afraid that the kid just won't work out, or that after they develop him, the competition will come along and steal him out from under them. In the future, I think what we'll see is rookies doing jobs and that's it. The only rookies that will make it big in the business are those who are related to promoters or those who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Just look at Big Bubba. Dusty is afraid to push him too awful hard because he has no loyalty to the promotion and he could be lured away with the temtation of the big bucks. All the independent stars dream of becoming a scrub for Titan because of the money. I'd bet with in five years, there is no such thing as a rookie in this country anymore.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Have you ever seen such a dismal roster of rookie candidates? That should tell you something about the state of the business today.

ERIC HOYME: I can't believe that I'm voting for people who don't have regular jobs. Paul E. gets my first place vote, but you can hardly consider the AWA full time employment. Shane Douglas gets a close second and where is he now? We'll probably vote for him four years from now in this same category. Johnny Ace is third. Can you believe it? I vote for a guy who does nothing more than carry a flag and occasionally interfere in matches. Two out of my three choices aren't even wrestlers!

PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

With the success of Wrestlemania III drawing 93,000 fans to the Pontiac Silverdome this past May, plus the routine signings of the competition's wrestlers, the World Wrestling Federation headed by Vince McMahon Jr. was able to capture this year's award for promotion of the year. Although the live shows lack the workrate of other promotions, Titan Sports' production values on the larger shows, including the TV tapings, Saturday Night's Main Event, and two pay per view events during the year continued to produce a variety of angles and action capturing the most points in this year's balloting. Here are the complete results of your voting:

PROMOTION	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Titan Sports-WWF	53	18	11	206
Jarrett Promotions Memphis	18	22	14	112
Jim Crockett promotions NWA	11	30	15	108
New Japan (Inoki's Group)	9	7	2	43
FootHills Athletic Club Calgary-Stampede	2	5	7	23
Bill Watts UWF	1	2	8	15
Fuller promotions Continental/Alabama	1	1	5	10
All Japan Pro Wrestling (Baba's Group)	0	3	0	6
Japanese Women	1	0	1	4
AWA	0	0	3	3
Pacific Northwest	0	1	0	2
Pro Wrestling America	0	0	1	1
Mexican-American Wrestling Association	0	0	1	1
World Class	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Despite selling the UWF in May, Bill Watts was still able to garner 15 points...Although Wrestling Forum covers very little to no Japanese news, the three Japanese promotions all received votes with Inoki's group making a favorable showing...Last year the WWF was only able to pick up 52 total points with 11 1st, 6 2nds and 7 3rds... There were only five more nominees this year than last...LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Universal Wrestling Federation with 111 points.

READER'S COMMENTS:

MIKE RAND: After being a whipping dog in he past, Titan is finally starting to use its vast talent. Wrestlemaniaa III was excellent overall and the constant change in angles helped a lot. NWA as #2 because it's the alternative to Titan. Florida B.C. (before Crockett) with Kevin Sullivan as booker did the best he could with the talent he had which included Bad New Allen, Bruiser Brody, New Breed and Steve Keirn.

KAREN SHEHORN: As much as I hate to admit it, overall, they (Titan) did the best job. I wish I could put the NWA first, but Dusty has made that impossible.

JOE LILLY: For the best action and excitement, the Memphis circuit is the hottest ticket around. I saw some of the best wrestling ever when I took a trip there in August.

ROBERT MOORE: 10 New Japan, 2) WWF, 3) Memphis...each one for sifferent reasons, however, all are very good in their own way. I see Continental and Stampede as up and comers.

RON DOBRATZ: 1) WWF because of Wrestlemania, the Saturday Night Main Events, a very marketable pair of weekly syndication shows and such original ideas as the Survivor Series and the Old Timer's Battle Royal.

BRUCE STEINBERG: (on his number two pick)....Memphis...always enjoyable and really the only promotion doing fairly well in the United States besides Titan.

BETH SACKETT: 1) WWF due to the tremendous showing at Wrestlemania III...I don't think any other promotion could have pulled off drawing almost 100,000 people.

NAME WITHHELD #3: Since Bill Watts sold his promotion, about the only thing I look forward to are month old copies (4th generation) tapes of Inoki's group. I'll list Watts' 2nd, and only there because he was in business for a few months this past year and third, I'll take Continental. Thoughts of George Steele keep me from picking Titan for any in this category and the thought of Jimmy Valiant and Busy McGraw opening he WTBS Saturday shows prevent me from listing the NWA. I think I'd rather watch Bruiser Bedlam. At least they don't pretend to be the best.

DON G. SMITH: 1) WWF - no other promotion can boast such talent. Too bad it (the talent) doesn't usually work hard. The demise of the TNT television embarrassment was a big plus. 2) NWA - Crockett and Rhodes waste a lot of potential, but the competition is weak.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I'm going with Memphis as my top pick here. The other groups have potentially good wrestlers and feuds...the key word is potential, something that is awful to have because no one ever lives up to it. I'll take Calgary second, and no one for third. After thinking about the way things are being run today, I'm almost embarrassed to be a wrestling fan!

WORST PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Bad luck seemed to start early in the year for Fritz Von Erich and his World Class organization and continued through the month of December. It was then that he sold his interest in the promotion to Ken mantell and things began to gradually improve. Still, the new ownership could not overcome eleven months of stale promoting, family angles, the exploitation of Mike Von Erich's death, and continual lies. Still, they managed to stay in business the whole year which of few of those listed below were not able to do.

PROMOTION	1st	2nd	3rd	total
WORLD CLASS	40	28	8	184
AWA	20	28	16	132
Central States	10	11	10	62
NWA-JCP	8	1	3	29
GLOW	5	4	3½	26½
Florida	3	1	4	15
POWW	1	3	2½	11½
Deep South	2	1	3	11
Pacific Northwest	1	0	4	7
Wild West wrestling	2	0	0	6
Savoldi's ICW	0	1	3	5
UWF	0	0	5	5
WWF	1	0	1	4
California Champ. Wr.	0	2	0	4
Tomko-Vancouver	0	1	1	3
Montreal	0	1	1	3
Mexico	1	0	0	3
Memphis	0	1	0	2
WWA (Pennsylvania)	0	1	0	2
Polynesean Pacific	0	0	1	1
Bruiser Bedlam	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: World Class and AWA were neck and neck through the early part of the balloting before World Class pulled away. Last year the AWA won the category by only four votes, 55-51...Jim Crockett Promotions' misuse of talent earned them a few votes on this side of the ledger as well as for the best promotion...Titan was only able to be named on two ballots here...California Championship Wrestling was sooo bad... that they were named on two ballots and they haven't even been in business for over a year...that's called making a lasting impression...

READERS COMMENTS:

MIKE MILLER: Florida. this group was once one of the best regional groups in existence. Then your friend and mine, Jim Crockett decides that purchasing the group will bring it to major league status. Unfortunately, it got worse with Dusty's brilliant mind doing no more for Florida than he's done for himself.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Can I put down about a thirty way tie for first here? (editor: no.)

BRUCE STEINBERG: 1) AWA 2) AWA 3) AWA...As you can see, I still resent Verne for all those lousy cards I used to spend my allowance on 15 years ago! (editor's note: we only counted one first place vote here)

NICK GEORGES: (on his third place pick) Bruiser Bedlam...so bad it's unintentionally funny - almost camp.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) AWA - terrible decision making and absenteeism, 2) World Class - Von Erichs Over America...what a joke. 3) Florida - boring angles, faceless performers - deserved to fold.

RON DOBRATZ: I can't vote for the AWA because in many ways they have continued to have some interesting things happen despite the dearth of talent. The same can be said for World Class which has even less talent available. But should I vote for them because they let so much talent escape? Or should I vote for Crockett because he has done less with so much more talent available? best not vote for anyone but if I have to come up with a name it would be Bob Geigel, considering how the Central States and Geigel has had in recent years affiliation with Muchnick, McMahon and Crockett.

GARY FISHMAN: In spite of all the garbage people come up with in defending the WWF in terms of good production of the TV show, family oriented values and fresh angles, their live shows are boring, dull, and most of the time major rip offs. Great wrestlers are turned into luke warm at best, comic book figures.

JOE COUGHLIN: From what I read everywhere, it sounds like a bad car accident (on his pick of World Class).

JEFF BOWDREN: Not since Sherman marched through Atlanta have we seen such a total rape like Crockett and Dusty did to the UWF. They very easily could have been number two in the best promotion category, but instead, decided to systematically ruin their own promotion. Way to go guys! (on picking the NWA first in this category).

ERIC HOYME: This was the easiest category to do....if they qualify, GLOW and POWW are not only the worst promotions going, they are the worst TV show, the worst live show, the worst taped show, the worst re-run, the worst radio show...I think you get the picture (if you couldn't get the picture that would at least improve the TV show), but just to elaborate a bit more, if these two were the only wrestling promotions in business, you still wouldn't have a winner in your best promotion category. What's really bad is when POWW decides to combine forces with Bruiser Bedlam. And you thought Junk Yard Dog and Ivan Putski was a bad team...

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

BOBBY EATON/STAN LANE
THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

Tag team wrestling seems to be more popular than ever and every team seems to have adopted a nickname of one sort or another. During 1987 we in fact saw three teams lay claim to the name "Midnight Express". All were very similar in style (and why not...after all, there were only four different wrestlers involved) however, the team consisting of Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane were able to outshine the others in terms of workrate to earn for the second straight year, the tag team of the year for the tag team managed by Jim Cornette.

TEAM	1st	2nd	3rd	total
MIDNIGHT EXPRESS	42	20	8	174
Road Warriors	12	13	9	71
Paul Diamond/Pat Tanaka	9	10	9	56
Strike Force	4	12	8	44
Hart Foundation	3	6	7	28
New Breed	4	1	3½	21½
Akira Maeda/Nobihiku Takada	3	4	2	19
Islanders	2	5	2	18
Rock and Roll Express	1	4	6	17
Bobby Eaton/Dennis Condrey	3	2	1	14
Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson	2	1	3	11
Jumping Bomb Angels	2	0	4	10
Lightening Express	2	1	2	10
Terry Taylor/Eddie Gilbert	1	2	2	9
Sheepherders	1	2	1	8
Brian Pillman/Bruce Hart	0	3	0	6
Jeff Jarrett/Billy Travis	0	2	1	5
Demolition	0	1	2	4
Can Am Connection	1	0	½	3½
Dennis Condrey/Randy Rose	1	0	0	3
Rougeau Brothers	1	0	0	3
British Bulldogs	0	0	3	3
Rock & Roll RPMs	1	0	0	3
Batten Twins	1	0	0	3
Paul Roma/Jimmy Powers	0	0	2	2
Tommy Rogers/Bobby Fulton	0	1	0	2
Viet Cong Express	0	1	0	2
Jimmy Golden/Robert Fuller	0	0	1	1
Midnight Rockers	0	0	1	1
Genchiro Tenyru/Hiro Hasa	0	0	1	1
Rick Steiner/Sting	0	0	1	1
Manny Fernandez/Rick Rude	0	0	1	1
Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee	0	0	1	1
Killer bees	0	0	1	1
Ken Patera/Billy Jack Haynes	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Last year's second place finisher, the Bulldogs, were named on only three ballots this year...despite gaining the AWA tag team belts, the Midnight Rockers posted only one point this year probably due to their sinking into oblivion...in fact, if you combine all the teams that held the AWA championship, they still only accounted for a total of 5 points...

READER'S COMMENTS:

JEFF BOWDREN: I saw Stan Lane earlier this year and I saw a a man that was totally disinterested in the business. now I tape his and Bobby's squash matches. They use moves that no one else in the U. S. has even thought of. Not only to mention Cornette's great names for the moves ("Divorce Court", "The Double Goozle"). First place goes to the Midnight Express.

JOE COUGHLIN: Roadies. Other guys move better, take bumps better, etc., but in terms of sheer charisma, it's hands down. I saw them from 50 yards away and I was TERRIFIED. The only word is awesome.

JOE LILLY: 1) Midnight Express...the team work that these two men display in the ring is thrilling to watch. Both men work hard and really know what they're doing. Bobby's high flying moves plus Stan's on the mat performance puts them #1 above all other teams. 2) Akira Maeda & Nobuhiko Takada...Two outstanding individual wrestlers who constantly work fantastic matches. It almost seems like the are competing with one another, to see who can execute each move closer to perfection. hey're exciting to watch. 3) Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis...These guys worked some four star matches in Memphis which were unbelievable. They don't have as much teamwork as other reams, but they both work hard, showing their individual moves which are done very well.

RALPH OBLOZA: 1) New Breed...I just like their act. I honestly think Dusty turned them because Chris (or was it Sean) did such a great impression of him.

wrestling forum yearbook extra...

THE GRANDE AWARDS

BY SEAN GRANDE

STRONGEST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Dusty Rhodes (who else could push a 300 pound tub of goo as far as he did this past year?)...
ISN'T HE DEAD YET AWARD: Giant Baba
IS HE STILL ALIVE AWARD: Bob Brown
THE GORDON SOLIE "THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE" AWARD: Championship Wrestling from Florida
THE MOST FAMOUS INANIMATE OBJECT OF THIS OR ANY OTHER YEAR: Ric Flair's mannequin
THE FIRST GUY (after Jerry Falwell) THAT JESUS WANTS TO TALK TO WHEN HE RETURNS: Fritz Von Erich
BEST NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING CITY: Calgary
WORST NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING CITY: Boston
AFTER YEARS OF ANTICIPATION HE FINALLY BECOMES A WORLD CHAMP AWARD/WORST SLEEPER HOLD BY AN AMERICAN LEAGUE SECOND BASEMAN: Greg Gagne of the minnesota Twins
THE JIM CORNETTE NEVER DISAPPOINT YOU AWARD: Paul E Dangerously
BEST IMPRESSION OF A HALLOWEEN MASH-ALL CANDY: Adrian Adonis
THE "I WENT TO A TITAN CARD AND A WRESTLING MATCH BROKE OUT" AWARD: Strike Force vs Islanders

more Grande awards elsewhere in the Yearbook

MOST OVERRATED

HULK HOGAN

A lot of wrestlers get national press and exposure without being very deserving of it. Their work in the ring hardly lives up to the standard that everyone seems to think it does. Other wrestlers are overrated by themselves. This year's winner is hulk Hogan who captures the award for the second year in a row.

wrestler	1st	2nd	3rd	total
HULK HOGAN	26	10	8	106
Dusty Rhodes	16	23	10	104
Lex Luger	10	6	12	54
Steve Williams	12	7	2	52
Honky Tonk Man	10	3	1	37
Nikita Koloff	5	9	7	30
Kevin Von Erich	0	3	6	12
Bruiser Brody	1	4	1	12
Ric Flair	3	1	0	11
Ron Garvin	1	2	3	10
Ken patera	1	1	2	7
Kerry Von Erich	1	2	0	7
Andre the Giant	0	1	4	6
Jerry Lawler	0	3	0	6
Rick Steamboat	2	0	0	6
Road Warriors	0	1	3½	5½
Junk yard Dog	0	2	1	5
Jim Duggan	0	2	1	5
Giant Baba	1	1	0	5
Jim Garvin	1	1	0	5
Antonio Inoki	0	1	2	4
Butch Reed	0	2	0	4
Randy Savage	1	0	½	3½
Rock & Roll Express	1	0	0	3
Akira Maeda	1	0	0	3
Tully Blanchard	0	1	1	3
Al Perez	1	0	0	3
Midnight Express	1	0	0	3
Michael Hayes	0	1	1	3
Rick Rude	0	1	0	2
Bobby Eaton	0	0	2	2
King Kong Bundy	0	1	0	2
Bam Bam Bigelow	0	0	2	2
Larry Zbyszko	0	1	0	2
Greg Gagne	0	1	0	2
One Man Gang	0	1	0	2
Barry Windham	0	1	0	2
Johnny Smith	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE (1) THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE (1) POINT: Adrian Adonis; Tommy Rich; Ted Dibiase; Owen Hart; Nick Kiniski; Billy Graham; Ivan Putski; Mike Rotunda; Jim Neidhart; Stan Lane; Mike Von Erich; Jumping Bomb Angels; Curt Hennig; Brutus Beefcake.

VOTING NOTES: This was the most closely contested category this year or last. Hogan led from the beginning and held off a late charge by Rhodes to gain the most overrated category for the second year in a row. Luger was able to nudge out Steve Williams for a third place finish, but still with less than half the votes of the winner and second place. It seemed that everyone had their own opinion of what "overrated" meant and who we meant overrated by. Some voted for wrestlers who were overrated by marks exclusively, some cast votes for those who are overrated by smart fans. Most however, took a stance somewhere down the middle of those two and voted for those that they felt were overrated in general.

READER COMMENTS:

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Nikita Koloff...his victory over Terry Taylor was a travesty...2) Dusty Rhodes...a decent booker if he could leave himself out of every angle...3)Lex Luger...who i like a lot until he gets in the ring.

NAME WITHHELD #4: overrated by smart fans...1 - Maeda, 2 - Jim Duggan, 3 - Owen Hart...Maeda is a very talented wrestler who won't, rather can't, work an entertaining match by Japan standards which features an onslaught of high spots and high risk maneuvers. I think the fans who rate him high are being hypocritical because some fans love the high spots of a Tiger Mask. It's pretentious of wrestlers like Maeda to work a "strong style" and not compromise when it's worked all the same. Duggan was an overrated goof when he was with Watts and people didn't realize it until he went to Titan. owen hart has a great future but he isn't Ric Flair yet as some think.

MIKE MILLER: Lex Luger - this guy is about as good of a wrestler as S. D. Jones. I thought when Lex became an honorary horseman and then a full fledged horseman that we would see something new added to this foursome. Well, lex has added nothing more to Crockett than Outback Jack has added to the WWF.

BETH SACKETT: If Lex Luger wrestled as well as he disrobed, he'd be a helluva wrestler.

RALPH OBLOZA: I'd like to place Steve Williams numbers one two and three...third choice is Bruiser Brody. Does he wrestle anyone besides Abby?

RON DOBRATZ:I have seen no one with so much potential as boring as Steve Williams...considering how much they have done in the past, Ricky Steamboat and Kevin Von Erich deserve criticism for how little they were in the spotlight in 1987. Jim Duggan should be acknowledged for how much he has hurt wrestling both in and out of the ring this past year. Bobby Eaton has been called underrated so long he has become overrated.

ROBERT MOORE: 1 - Dusty, 2 - Nikita, 3 - Kevin Von Erich...all can make their opponent look bad...even if he's not.

MIKE RAND: Ric Flair - I can't think of any other wrestler who is held up on a throne more by smart fans than Flair. He is a great worker BUT he has constantly done the same moves in every match this year and I just got bored with it.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Take away his chest's ability to absorb slaps and you've got a wrestler who hasn't changed a thing in his act in the past three years. Fans (marks) at ringside are able to call his spots before they happen. That's what I wold call overrated. The same can be said for my second place pick, Hulky Hogan.

NAME WITHHELD #6: As a wrester, I have to pick Honky Tonk Man. As a heel, though, he's vastly underrated.

Almost every ballot that named Dusty Rhodes mad the comment that he is most overrated by himself.

MOST UNDERRATED
CURT HENNIG

Defining underrated is not easy. Most fans commented this year that their choices were made as such because of general lack of respect from the wrestling fans in general. Our winner, Curt Hennig, managed to hold the AWA title for most of the year, working against what had to seem to be insurmountable odds by taking on whoever was willing to work for Verne Gagne during any particular week. Making foes that have been let go by other promotions because of their workrate among other things made things tough for Curt, but his persistence paid off by being named Wrestling Forum's most underrated wrestler.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
CURT HENNIG	18	13	8	88
Pat Tanaka	9	8	5	48
Terry Taylor	7	4	6	35
Bret Hart	5	6	4	31
Sting	5	6	3	30
Brad Armstrong	3	5	2	21
Sam Houston	4	1	4	18
Bobby Eaton	5	1	0	17
Eddie Gilbert	1	5	2	15
Brady Boone	1	4	0	11
Tito Santana	3	0	2	11
Michael Hayes	2	1	1½	9½
Barry Windham	1	2	1	8
Islander Tama	1	2	1	8
Billy Travis	1	2	1	8
Adrian Street	2	1	0	8
Tom Pritchard	2	1	0	8
Konga the Barbarian	1	2	1	8
Rick Steiner	1	1	2	7
Honky Tonk Man	1	1	1½	6½
Barry horowitz	1	1	1	6
Bubba Rogers	2	0	0	6
Arn Anderson	1	1	0	5
Jeff Jarrett	1	1	0	5
Harley Race	1	0	1	4
Steve Lombardi	1	0	1	4
Tommy Rich	0	2	0	4
Nick Bockwinkel	0	1	2	4
Don Muraco	1	0	1	4
Danny Davis (WWF)	1	0	1	4
Lanny Poffo	1	0	0	3
Ricky Morton	0	1	1	3
Ric Flair	1	0	0	3
Sherri Martel	0	1	1	3
Kazuo Yamasaki	1	0	0	3
Owen Hart	1	0	0	3
Hulk Hogan	1	0	0	3
Jim Powers	1	0	0	3
Paul Diamond	0	1	1	3
Rick Martel	1	0	0	3
Islander Haku	1	0	0	3
Biff Wellington	0	1	1	3
Tim Horner	1	0	0	3
Derrick Dukes	1	0	0	3
Fantastics	1	0	0	3
Iron Sheik	1	0	0	3
DJ peterson	1	0	0	3
Shunji Takano	0	1	1	3

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Rick Steamboat 0-1-0(2) Bruiser Brody 0-1-0 (2), Tully Blanchard 0-0-2 (2), Rougeau Brothers 0-0-2 (2), Bad News Allen 0-1-0 (2), Mike Rotundo 0-1-0 (2), Dutch Mantell 0-1-0 (2), Paul Roma 0-1-0 (2), Tom Zenk 0-1-0 (2), Lex Luger 0-1-0 (2), Jason the Terrible 0-1-0 (2), Al Perez 0-1-0 (2), Killer Bees 0-1-0 (2), Hector Guerrero 0-1-0 (2), Ivan Koloff 0-1-0 (2), New Breed 0-1-0 (2), THOSE RECEIVING ONE (1) third place vote for ONE (1) POINT: Slick, Brian Pillman, Negro casas, Davey Boy Smith, Stampede Wrestling, Greg Valentine, Keichi Yamada, Ron Garvin, Brutus Beefcake, Doug Sommers, Ricky Santana, Demolition, Rip Oliver, Akira Maeda, Steve Williams, Chavo Guererro, and LeLani Kai

VOTING NOTES: This seems to be our most popular category. last year it had sixty six entries and this year it leads the way with eighty-one nominees. Hennig, Taylor and Tanaka all started strong and finished in the top three. Bret Hart, last year's winner, had a slow start but picked up a lot of support among the late voters. Both Sting and Brad Armstrong had strong runs and wound up in the top six or so.

READERS COMMENTS:

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd, Curt Hennig. The guy's a world champ and just doesn't get the respect he should. He's one heck of a worker and an interesting heel. 2nd, Pat Tanaka. Best bumps in the business. 1st, Kauo Yamazaki. Quickest kicks in the sport. Should be one of New Japan's five biggest stars, but his relationship with the blackballed Satoru Sayama (Original Tiger Mask) keeps him held back.

DAVE MELTZER: Pat Tanaka (takes the best bumps in the business). 2. Brad Armstrong (even though he got a little push, few realize how good he is); 3. Ricky Morton ([underrated] by the public at large who see him as an obnoxious midget and not one of the hardest workers around. Honorable mention: Makhan Singh, Johnny Smith, Jerry Morrow, Paul Diamond, Tim Horner, Tom Pritchard, and Sam Houston.

JOE LILLY: (op his second choice) Curt Hennig...maybe the best of our world champions. It's tough to decide between he and Flair. The Apter mags are always putting him down and never giving him the credit he deserves.

ROBERT MOORE: 1. Sam Houston - he gets no push at all and is deserving of one. 2. Brad Armstrong - he gets a slight push, but not enough and 3. Curt Hennig - although Hennig is world champion, it is of the AWA and he deserves better.

RALPH OBLOZA: Curt Hennig made the best he could out of being turned which had to be forced down the fans' throats.

BRUCE STEINBERG: Eddie Gilbert - a very good worker and a very funny interview. What more do you need?

DON G. SMITH: Harley Race - the young marks of the WWF have no idea how good Race was and (by wWF standards) still is.

LANCE LEVINE: 1. Tim Horner - a crime that he's been lost in the NWA/UWF shuffle. 2. Curt Hennig - who could really show his stuff with some good opponents.

THE GRANDE AWARDS, PART II

the LARRY NELSON "DOESN'T HE KNOW IT'S A WORK?" AWARD: Akira maeda
ROOKIE BULLETIN WRITER OF THE YEAR: Brother Jeff Steele-Pro Wrestling Digest
the ALRIGHT! WHO'S THE *&*@(RESPONSIBLE AWARD: the idiot who cut Missy's Manor that would have shown both Missy and Elizabeth together on the same screen.
the ANDRE THE GIANT "WHAT'D HE SAY?" AWARD: Tommy Rich
the COME ON! YOU KNOW YOU LOVED IT AWARD: tie between Ted DiBiase kicking the ball away from Soul Train's kid and Honky Tonk shoving Elizabeth
JERRY LAWLER FLAME THROWING AWARD: Jim Cornette
the SAY WHAT YOU WILL BUT HE HAD A HECK OF A YEAR: Vince McMahon
CONCEPT OF THE YEAR: War Games

1987 RATINGS
TOP TEN TAG TEAMS
BY SEAN GRANDE

1. Bobby Eaton/Stan Lane
2. Nobuhiko Takada/Akira Maeda
3. Rick Martel/Tito Santana
4. Arn Anderson/Tully Blanchard
5. Ricky Morton/Robert Gibson
6. Yoshiaki Fujiwara/Kazuo Yamazaki
7. Terry Taylor/Eddie Gilbert
8. Pat tanaka/Paul Diamond
9. Haku/Tama - the Islanders
10. Owen Hart/Brian Pillman

MATCH OF THE YEAR

RICK STEAMBOAT VS RANDY SAVAGE
MARCH 29, 1987-WRESTLEMANIA III
PONTIAC, MI

Whenever a feud comes to a conclusion, especially whenever a title is involved, the last match will often stand out in the minds of fans, culminating with a title change. Such is the case of the saving grace of Wrestlemania III; a long awaited confrontation to conclude the Rick Steamboat-Randy Savage feud which even with the presence of George Steele at ringside, would not disappoint the fans. Neatly positioned between the high spots were near falls, near disqualifications, and even a touch of comedy and drama. The match will go down in the history books as one of the finest in World Wrestling Federation history.

DATE	LOCATION	MATCH	1st	2nd	3rd	total
3-29	Pontiac, MI	STEAMBOAT-SAVAGE	30	27	9	153
1-20	Fayetteville	Flair-Windham (45 minute draw broadcast on TBS)	21	17	7	104
7-4	Atlanta	War Games I	7	1	1	24
3-29	Pontiac	Andre-Hogan	4	2	2	18
8-2	Jackson, TN	Tanaka/Diamond vs Jarrett/Travis	4	2	1	17
4-11	Baltimore	Flair vs Windham	2	4	2	16
??	Las Vegas	Bockwinkel-Hennig match broadcast 12-31-86 on ESPN -60 min draw	2	2	5	15
9-25	Detroit	Flair vs Garvin	3	1	2	13
6-27	Los Angeles	Casas vs Santos	4	0	0	12
4-27	Memphis	Idol vs Lawler (hair)	1	3	3	12
11-11	Seattle	Savage vs Hart	1	1	4½	9½
9-9	new Orleans	Taylor/Gilbert vs Sting/ Douglas with Adams interferring (brawl)	2	1	1	9
9-23	Hershey, PA	Savage vs Honky Tonk	1	1	3	8
11-26	Chicago	Flair vs Garvin	1	0	4	7
3-20	Tokyo	Maeda/Takano vs Mutoh/ Koshinaka	0	3	1	7
8-11	Chicago	War Games III	2	0	0	6
2-5	Japan	Koshinaka vs Takada	2	0	0	6
11-25	Long Island	War Games IV	0	1	2	4
7-31	Miami	War Games II	0	1	2	4
2-23	Tokoyo	Lioness Asuka vs Chigusa Nagayo	0	0	3½	3½
8/20	Tokyo	New vs Now 10 man tag	1	0	0	3
9/19	Edmonton	Pillman/Hart vs Zodiak/ Jason	1	0	0	3
???	Cleveland	Barry Windham-Eddie Gilbert (TV tape dark)	1	0	0	3
	Des Moines	Downtown Bruno vs Ric McCord (loser leave)	1	0	0	3
???	???	Horner vs Armstrong	1	0	0	3
11-26	Cleveland	Survivor Tag Team Match	0	0	3	3
	Oakland	Hennig vs Bockwinkel	1	0	1	3
5-26	Louisville	Diamond/Tanaka vs Travis/Jarrett	1	0	0	3
7-11	OklahomaCity	Williams vs Bubba	0	1	0	2
7-11	Greensboro	Blanchard-Koloff	0	1	0	2
???	???	Muraco-Orton	0	1	0	2
9-18	Pittsburgh	Flair-Garvin	0	1	0	2
		Saito-Inoki	0	1	0	2
7-4	Los Angeles	Hogan-Savage	0	1	0	2
6-2	Rochester	Steamboat-Honky Tonk	0	1	0	2
	Atlanta	Mulkies-Gladiators	0	1	0	2
??	Pittsburgh	Windham/Garvin vs Midnight Express	0	1	0	2
3-29	Pontiac	Piper-Adonis	0	1	0	2
11-26	Chicago	Skywalkers 87	0	1	0	2
	Washington	R&R vs Midnight	0	1	0	2
		Bubba-One Man Gang	0	1	0	2
??/	Colubus, MS	Stubbs/Anthony vs Night-mares	0	1	0	2

OTHERS RECEIVING ONE POINT: 7-11 Greensboro, Flair vs Jim Garvin, 10-3 Boston Islanders vs Strike Force, Pittsburgh Troy Orndofff vs Cactus Jack Foley, 10-10 Edmonton, 10 man cage tag match, 12-20-86 Memphis Lawler vs Rich, White Water, Lawler/Dundee vs Rose/Condrey, harts vs Bulldogs title change on TV, Chicago Taylor vs Adams, 11-25 Long Island Flair/Luger vs Road Warriors. Half point to Maeda/Takada vs Fujiwara/Yamasaki.

VOTING NOTES: Ric Flair and Barry Windham's classic battle from Fayetteville took an early lead but relinquished the lead to the eventual winner, the Steamboat-Savage match up fromWrestlemania after just a couple of weeks...War Games I from Atlanta took third place, far behind the top two...if all the war games matches' votes were added together, they would still remain in third place with 38 points....many voters made the same comment on choosing the Steamboat-Savage match over the Flair Windham match: If the Flair match would have had a winner rather than going to a draw, it might have taken the top spot.

READERS COMMENTS:

BRUCE STEINBERG: Savage-Steamboat...even my brother who is not a wrestling fan at all got into this one. Top notch work.

JEFF BOWDREN: 2nd is the match from late January between Flair and Windham...Even Dusty was great at ringside working the mike along side Tony Shivonto. 1st was the match from August 20 in Tokyo which was the highlight of the NEW vs NOW feud. Ten man tag with Riki Choshu-Tasumi Fujinami-Akira Maeda-Nobuhiko Takada-Stong Machine (NEW leaders) vs Antonio Inoki-Masa Saito-Yoshiaki Fujiwara-Seiji Sakaguchi-Dick Murdoch (NOW leaders) in a 27 minute elimination match. AWESOME!!

TRENT WALTERS: (on his third place choice)...October 10 in Edmonton, a 10 man bunkhouse elimination cage match with Owen Hart, Bruce Hart, Brian Pillman, Hiroshi Hase and Mike Kirshner vs makhan Singh, Gama Singh, Jerry Morrow, Jason and Zodiak. It went 47 minutes. Had Kirshner not been in, it would have been number one.

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1. War Games I, 2. Savage-Steamboat, 3. Lawler-Idol (cage match hair vs money returned)...The War Games match was so tight. and believable it deserves to be number one. A great concept to be sure. Savage-Steamboat was a great one and a strong number two. Although the Lawler Idol match wasn't filled with high spots or great technical moves, it had tons of heat and suspense with a shocker of an ending which makes it number three.

NMAE WITHHELD #3: The battle of New Orleans was the wildest thing I've ever seen on American TV. It has to be the top pick.

ERIC HOYME: I think the Savage Steamboat thing was just an average match really, but compared to the standard set by the WWF of just presenting mediocre matches anyway, it shone above the rest and made it look better, not only compared with the WWF, but also with other promotions as well. I had to go with Flair Windahm match second and a close second as well. The only reason it came in second was because of the draw (although with the series of two counts that they went through, that was the only logical conclusion). I picked the Savage-Bret Hart from the November edition of Saturday night's Main Event third. It's too bad the WWF can't do those kind of matches live every night.

NAME WITHHELD #1: Go with Hogan-Andre from Wrestlemania. Oh yeah, it was a pretty lousy match, but considering the live crowd that it drew plus the closed circuit and PPV audience, in terms of dollars, it was the best match of the year.

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

JIM ROSS

When Jim Crockett bought the UWF, most fans expected his most valuable acquisition to be one of the UWF wrestlers. Now after most have been phased out of the picture, he is left with somewhat of an unexpected surprise...Wrestling Forum's Announcer of the year, Jim Ross. The benefits worked both ways. Long lauded as one of the best play by play men in the business, Ross' added exposure through national TV outlets and his work late in the year on Superstation WTBS gained him recognition through the laudits of our readers.

ANNOUNCER	1ST	2ND	3RD	TOTAL
JIM ROSS	44	29	5	195
Lance Russell	25	17	9	118
Tony Shivone	9	16	21	80
Gordon Solie	2	7	9	29
Vince McMahon	3	3	4	19
Gorilla Monsoon	3	3	0	15
Howard Finkel	2	0	0	6
Larry Nelson	0	1	3	5
David Crockett	0	2	0	4
Don Koss	0	0	4	4
Ed Whalen	1	0	1	4
Rick Stewart	1	0	1	4
Mark Lowrance	0	1	1	3
Bill Mercer	1	0	0	3
Jesse Ventura	1	0	0	3
Mitch Karch	1	0	0	3
Cal Rudman	1	0	0	3
Dave Brown	0	0	2	2
David McLane	0	1	0	2
Don Owen	0	1	0	2
Bob caudle	0	0	1	1
Jack Gregory	0	0	1	1
Joe Pedicino	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Ross and Russell were neck and neck for the first couple of weeks. It was just after that time that Ross began appearing on WTBS and he started to pull away. Howard Finkel managed to pull in two first place votes though I have never heard him actually call a match. Perhaps he does on some obscure cable system. Last year this category was a combination of announcers and color commentators and was won handily by Jesse Ventura over jim Ross who finished second. Lance Russell moved up to second place this year from 5th place last year. With the added exposure that both Jack Gregory and Joe Pedicino will get this coming year, both will figure higher, no doubt, in next year's balloting.

READERS COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #7: My number one pick, Jim Ross, can make a good match great with that seems to be genuine enthusiasm. Lance russell is one of the main reasons that Memphis has such a great TV show. He's almost the complete opposite of Ross with his laid back style which proves there is no set formula for a great wrestling announcer. My number three pick, Gordon Solie, would be number one if he would just stop using the same tired clichés, "no questions about that".

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd, Larry Nelson. I hated this guy a year ago, but I just die now when I watch his facial expressions during interview segments.

ROBERT MOORE: I like Ross. He accentuates the action without distracting from it. Russell is always very good; Shivone may have been my number two pick but he is usually paired with David Crockett who is just awful.

RALPH OBLOZA: (on his number three pick)...Vince Mcmahon. Did you ever notice the few times that Jesse's not with Vince, he isn't as good?

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Jim Ross (if I'm looking away and I hear, "IT'S BREAKIN' DOWN!" I know something exciting is happening. 2) Tony Shivone (solid year round), 3) Jack Gregory (a refreshing newcomer).

ERIC HOYME: Well one thing's for sure. Vince McMahon and his crew of WWF announcers are going blank in this category. Their commentary is no that of play by play, but a well developed commercial for future angles and upsoming live shows. Very seldom do we ever hear an actual match being called.

NAME WITHHELD #3: I'll complete this category with Larry Nelson. Last year he was a leading candidate for worst announcer of the century. I don't know whether we've all just gotten used to him or if he's improved, but I think next year (providing the AWA lasts that long) he'll be a contender for the number three spot overall.

&&&

COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR

JESSE THE BODY VENTURA

It's not that there is no competition is this category; plenty of good color commentators are out there. It's just that Jesse Ventura's cutting remarks and "tell it like it is" style was just so much better than anyone else that he was able to bank on this award before the first ballot arrived.

ANNOUNCER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
JESSE VENTURA	84	6	1	265
Nick Bockwinkel	2	22	19	69
Bobby Heenan	2	17	7	47
Michael Hayes	2	14	9	43
Magnum TA	0	8	6	22
Missy Hyatt	2	2	4	14
Johnny valiant	1	1	3	8
Jim Cornette	0	3	1	7
Terry Taylor	0	2	2	6
Pete Dougherty	0	1	3	5
Dave Brown	0	2	1	5
Tony Shivone	0	1	1	3
Dutch Savage	1	0	0	3
Bruno sammartino	0	0	2	2
Dusty Rhodes	0	1	0	2
Johnny Weaver	0	1	0	2
Andy Big Bear	0	1	0	2
Russ Francis	0	0	1	1
Greg Gagne	0	0	1	1
Chris Adams	0	0	1	1
Jim Davis	0	0	1	1
JJ Dillon	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Isn't it amazing that Jesse scored more points than all the other announcers combined (265 to 245). More amazing stats: Jesse was named on ninety one of the ninety four ballots cast for a percentage of 96.8%. He set a new record for number of points and for number of first place votes received. Provided he keeps up the same, never boring routine and remains fresh, his numbers next year could make this year's seem small. One voter who didn't name Jesse on his ballot declined to name anyone at all for this category....Nick Bockwinkel's move to the WWF and his added exposure adding color on MSG telecast as well as some Prime Time matches helped boost him into the number two position. Bobby Heenan's role as Gorilla Moonsoon's sidekick on USA's Prime Time Wrestling gave him enough support to finish third.

READERS" COMMENTS:

BRUCE STEINBERG: 2) Michael Hayes - he was excellent on the old UWF shows, almost upto Ventura's level.

ERIC HOYME: I'm not going to cast a vote here; we all know Jesse's going to walk away with he whole shibang anyway. As I said before, the WWF announcers really don't call the action. They serve as nothing more than a hype machine; slick salesmen who have the total audience so mesmerized that they don't even realize they are buying a bill of

goods. Now for this category, a color man is supposed to just that. Add color to the actual play by play. If there is no play by play, then there can't be any color, now can there? Jesse is not a good color man. He's an entertainer who insults both wrestlers and other announcers. Bruno isn't a play by play announcer or a color man either. He's a straight man.

WRESTLING FORUM YEARBOOK EXTRA...
repeating an old favorite

THE THIRD FALL
from Volume 2 Issue 9
May 15, 1987

To appreciate how much Steve has improved in the ring, you have to see some of his early matches. There is no nice way to say it. When he first started out, he stunk.

Part of the reason was the way he was pushed from the beginning. With little or no formal training in the sport of wrestling, Steve was taken and pushed as a strongman type. He was put directly into the role of a heel, and that in itself was a big mistake.

See, heels are supposed to do a lot of beating up, but they are expected to get beat up even more. Because of that, they are expect to take some nasty bumps and be very proficient at selling. That way the fans feel their heroes (who are doing the beating) are getting the revenge they're seeking, thus the fan is getting his money's worth. Problems arise when the heel doesn't know how to take the bumps or sell, and unfortunately for Steve, he didn't know how to do either. What made the transition for Steve is still somewhat of a mystery. Perhaps is was going to work for Cowboy Bill Watts who insisted on a superior workrate from his workers. Perhaps he had a genuine interest in the sport and wanted to become known as one of the better workers. Maybe it was the workers around him who got tired of him messing up high spots. Whatever the case, Doc straightened his act out and today is one of the finest wrestlers the UWF has to offer.

Now you may think you know the outcome of the third fall, but don't get ahead of yourself.

See, Steve, or Doc, or whatever you want to call him, didn't have to wrestle for a living. He had been to college and learned a trade that could have probably supported him very comfortably for the rest of his life. But he had the dedication that few "muscleheads" have today. He had the drive to become he best he could be.

See, Steve really was a doctor. Doctor Steve Bordon who left a chiropractic practice to enter the world of professional wrestling.

You know him better as "Every Man's Nightmare" - Sting. Only now, you know the outcome of the third fall.

The third fall you have just read was the most popular third fall feature we've ever done. Once a month this feature appears in Wrestling Forum. We reran this particular one by popular demand.

Just for your information, over the past two years, we have printed nineteen different third fall features. The tone is always the same...and is based on Paul Harvey's "the Rest of the Story" program. We take a litle known fact, hide it among other facts that are more well known, try to get you to thinking we're talking about someone different from who we really are, then lower the boom on you with a surprise ending.

If you have any little known facts about wrestling, let us know. We'll try to turn it into a third fall for the rest of our readers.

JOBBER OF THE YEAR

BRADY BOONE

The role of the jobber is an important on as they are the ones responsible for getting the stars of the different federations "over" each week on TV, yet they remain unheralded among fans because of their lopsided win loss records. This year's category was over populated with WWF jobbers with most readers citing the fact that the jobbers here could be stars (or in some cases have been stars) elsewhere. This year's winner, Brady Boone, is a case in point. He has worked for the Central States Promotion as well as being a major star for Don Ownes in Portland before coming to the WWF to lay down on the mat each week.

WRESTER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
BRADY BOONE	49	14	10	185
Barry Horowitz	11	12	7	64
Steve Lombardi	5	10	7	42
Sam Houston	3	6	5	26
Mike Boyette	4	3	3	21
Iron Mike Sharpe	3	4	3	20
Mike Jackson	3	1	4	15
Jose Estrada	1	1	7	12
Billy Anderson	2	1	1	9
Lanny Poffo	1	1	3	8
Jimmy Backlund	1	2	1	8
Jake Miliman	1	1	2	7
Mulkie Brothers	1	1	1	6
Rocky King	1	1	1	6
Randy Mulkey	1	1	0	5
Scott Casey	0	2	1	5
Pete "Duke" dougherty	1	1	0	5
Rick Gantner	0	2	0	4
Ric Flair	0	2	0	4
Tommy Angel	1	0	0	3
Russell Sapp	0	0	3	3
Rick Steiner	1	0	0	3
Bob Cook	1	0	0	3
Biff Wellington	1	0	0	3
Teijo Khan	0	1	0	2
Bill Tabb	0	1	0	2
George South	0	1	0	2
John paul	0	1	0	2
Bill Mulkey	0	1	0	2
Terry Gibbs	0	1	0	2
Gary Young	0	1	0	2
Jerry Grey	0	1	0	2
Alan Martin	0	1	0	2
Gladiators	0	1	0	2
Sivi Afi	0	1	0	2
Rip Oliver	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Tim Brooks, Johnny K-9, Shane Douglas, Italian Stallion, Terry Taylor, Jeff Wheeler, SD Jones, Joe Mirto, Rough 'n Ready, Davey Haskins, Omar Atlas.

VOTING NOTES: The WWF job corps took complete control of this category with them placing seven wrestlers in the top ten...many of the jobbers in Titan could be or in fact, have been main event stars elsewhere. Such is the case with Brady Boone who headlined cards in both the Pacific Northwest and Central States before heading east. The same holds true for Barry Horowitz (a famous Florida jobber who had a record hyped on TV as something like 0-134) who was a mid level heel in Florida shortly after his losing streak and also in Memphis. Sam Houston actually held championship belts this year before going to the WWF and prior to his small push there. We didn't include Billy Anderson, who is for the most part, a free lance jobber from the west coast who had laid down for the WWF, the AWA, and the NWA in the past year, as a WWF jobber..... Brady Boone led the way fromthe beginning with strong support all the way....Ric Flair managed to capture four total points which is more of an editorial comment from those who named him than an honor here...

READERS COMMENTS:

LARRY LOVELL: I don't call Houston a jobber and the fabulous Mulkies disappeared.

RALPH OBLOZA: 1) Mike Jackson - the only guy Crockett allows to have any kind of offense. Sort of a Kenny Jay or George Gadaski type. 2) The Gladiators - I thought the Mulkey win was one of the most entertaining moments of the year.

DAVE GOULD: Rick Steiner - have you ever seen a guy with so much talent/ potential lose do often?

JEFF BOWDREN; 3rd, Terry Taylor. A job for Davey Haskins?!! 2nd, Ric Flair for laying down for Ron "max Headroom" Garvin and for not even getting a clean pin over Kendall Windham in his "workout" session at the Omni. 1st, Bob Cook. Getting back to the serious balloting, this guy is really underrated. Crockett finally gives him a push (one half of the mighty Yankees in Florida along with super worker Jerry Grey) and then closes down the promotion! Watch his work and ask yourself whether he's a fan of Bret Hart or what.

KAREN SHEHORN: Brady Boone 1st. If the WWf knew better, they wold push this kid. he could be great, except he is small. 2nd, Steve Lombardi. He works his butt off.

NAME WITHHELD #7: First place goes to Brady Boone, clearly the best. Barry Horowitz is a good worker and deserves second place. Jimmy backlund, Florida jobber, takes great bumps and deserves dome credit. After seeing his won loss record in October and November, I was actually considering Ric Flair for this award.

ERIC HOYME: The Mulkey Brothers were around for at least part of the year. What happened? After they got their win on TBS did Dusty decide they got too big headed? They were probably telling people that they had the same number of clean pinfall victories as Ric Flair did.

BEST ANGLE OR FEUD OF THE YEAR

JERRY LAWLER VS AUSTIN IDOL & TOMMY RICH

We have come to a time in wrestling where feuds are prolonged due to the national exposure of wrestling promotions and the desire to run each feud in every city at least once. This tends to make the feuds stale to a national audience and opens the door for some of the smaller promotions to develop a feud, heat it up, and then end it to the satisfaction of the fans. This year's feud of the year took place in Memphis and although short lived, it set the area on fire as well as drew the attention of wrestling fans across the nation.

FEUD OR ANGLE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
LAWLER VS IDOL/RICH	32	15	3½	129½
HTM vs Savage (with Savage turn)	14	14	15	85
Savage vs Steamboat	6	22	9	71
Hogan vs Andre	15	6	3	60
War Games concept	7	1	5	28
Taylor vs Adams	4	6	2	26
DiBiase's Million Dollar Man	5	3	4	25
Islanders vs Strike Force	1	2	7	14
Flair vs windham	1	4	2	13
Hennig vs Bockwinkel	0	1	5	7
Saito vs Inoki	0	3	1	7
Flair's Dream Date	0	2	2	6
Tanaka/Diamond vs jarret/Travis	1	1	0	5
Muraco vs Orton	1	1	0	5
Rock & Roll vs Midnight	0	1	2	4
Flair vs Ron Garvin	0	2	0	4
HTM vs Roberts	1	0	0	3
New vs Now	1	0	0	3
Iron Sheik vs Bob Backlund	1	0	0	3
Bruiser Brody vs Abdullah	1	0	0	3
Casas vs Del Santo	0	1	1	3
Bockwinkel vs Zybszko	1	0	0	3
Ole Anderson's turn	0	1	1	3
Flair-Animal in Chicago (to set up War Games III)	1	0	0	3
Garvins vs Midnight Express	1	0	0	3
Tanaka/Maeda vs Koshinaka/Mutoh	0	1	0	2
Horsemen vs Road Warriors	0	1	0	2
Jarrett vs tanaka	0	1	0	2
Owen Hart vs Makhan Singh	0	0	2	2
Piper vs Adonis	0	0	1	1
Danny Davis - Wendell Cooley	0	0	1	1
Hennig vs Gagne	0	0	1	1
Sting's turn	0	0	1	1
Horsemen vs Rhodes/Koloff	0	0	1	1
Lightening Express vs Sheeps	0	0	1	1
Brutus "the Barber" skit	0	0	1	1
Rexsteiner beats up Wojochoski	0	0	1	1
Rose/Sommers vs Rockers	0	0	1	1
New Breed vs Midnight Express	0	0	1	1
Tenyru vs Tsruta	0	0	½	½

VOTING NOTES: As many readers noted, this should be made into two separate categories and next will it will...a feud is a series of matches and an angle is what sets up those matches (a skit, a turn, etc.)...Memphis finally captures a top spot in one of our awards with the short lived thing with Lawler, Rich and Idol...it held the top spot from day one and survived a late run of votes cast by the HTM-Savage match where Honky shoved Elizabeth to the mat...quite a few angles did well in this category which gives credit to the bookers who set them up...seven angles captured 25 or more points which is impressive and shows that support of different angles were fairly widespread.

READERS COMMENTS:

MIKE RAND: (on his third place pick) Taylor-Adams could have been great if not for Taylor's (car) accident. Their match on TV that went into the concessions was unbelievable.

GARY FISHMAN: I saw three matches pitting Flair against Windham and they were thee of the best ten matches I have seen in my life.

JOE COUGHLIN: For sheer hilarity, I'm going with the Sheik Backlund thing.

DAVE MELTZER: (On his number two pick) Flair vs Windham...best matches of the year and drew well - sold out Greensboro with no undercard.

HENRY POSTER: Lawler vs Idol/Rich...because if you look at who was involved, you had one of the best bayfaces (Lawler) in wrestling, one of the best heels (Idol), a future superstar (Bigelow), the brightest young manager (Dangerously), the re-emergence of Tommy Rich, the unlikely teaming of lawler with Bill Dundee. Also, the interviews Idol, Rich and dangerously did for this feud were unbelievable, perhaps the greatest heat intervies I've ever seen.

JOE LILLY: This feud (Lawler-Idol/Rich) was one of the wildest in along time...it saw the famous "steel cage hair match" and ended with a dual skywalkers match. A;though the feud only lasted for six months or about 24 weeks, it is equivalent to almost two years of a Titan or Crockett feud.

RALPH OBLOZA: Terry Taylor's turn - I like the completely unexpected and who would have thought Taylor could pull it off.

RON DOBRATZ: the cage match where Lawler was ambushed from underneath the ring was a classic (on his number two pick).

MIKE MILLER: (on his number three pick) Curt vs Greg...only because Greg has finally found someone to give him good matches.

DON G SMITH: 1) Hogan Andre, 2) Savage Steamboat, 3) Savage HTM...Several other good angles come to mind - none of which happened in the nWA, a testament to he staleness of the promotion.

NAMEWITHHELD #4: YOU may not have liked the Hogan Andre angle, but I must remind you that some 93,000 other people did.

DUMBEST ANGLE OR FEUD OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR'S DATE WITH THE MANNEQUIN

There seemed to be several dumb angles cooked up for the fans by the bookers this year, yet most readers agreed that the sight of one of the greatest wrestlers in the world trying to make it with a mannequin was not only a dumb thing to do on national TV, but also a very degrading thing as well.

ANGLE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
RIC FLAIR & the MANNEQUIN	31	9	2	113
Brian Adias' Oriental Tool	11	9	3	54
Dream Date film (with Ron Garvin)	8	6	1	37
Hogan vs Andre	6	6	4	34
Dusty vs Luger	3	7	½	23½
Superstar graham vs Butch Reed	2	5	4	20
Brutus "the Barber" skit	3	4	3	20
Adonis vs Rich	3	1	3	14
Kevin Von Erich vs Brian Adias	2	2	1	11
Dusty vs Tully on the Bash Tour	2	1	2½	10½
Paul Jones-Mighty Wilbur	1	1	4	9
Flair-Garvin Starrcade main event	2	1	1	9
Battle for Bam Bam	2	1	0	8
Outback Jack	0	2	4	8
Terry Taylor Press Conference	0	2	3	7
Snuka vs DeBeers	0	3	1	7
Adonis' Gay Act	0	3	1	7
Danny Davis vs George Steele	1	0	2	5
Adonis vs Piper	1	0	1	5
Battle of the sleepers	1	0	2	5
Adrian Street as a babyface	1	0	0	3
Superpowers	1	0	0	3
Red River Jack/Bruiser Brody	1	0	0	3
New Breed from 2002	1	0	0	3
Jim Duggan's character (with 2x4)	0	0	3	3
Billy Graham's surgery	1	0	0	3
Orndorff's turn	0	0	3	3
Race vs Duggan	1	0	0	3
Rhodes/Koloff vs Murdoch/Koloff	1	0	0	3
Hennig vs Gagne	0	1	1	3
Ole vs Arn Anderson	1	0	0	3
Hiro Matsuda as the Shogun	1	0	0	3
Bundy vs Jim & midget	1	0	0	3
Brown vs Cuban Assassin	1	0	0	3
Honky Tonk Man	1	0	0	3
Bee's Mask Trick	1	0	0	3
Al Perez vs Kevin Von Erich	1	0	0	3

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Vladimir Petrov 0-1-0 (2), Survivor Series 0-1-0 (2), Brickhouse Brown's commission 0-1-0 (2), Dusty vs Flair 0-1-0 (2), AWA's reasoning for when someone leaves 0-1-0 (2), Rude/Bull vs R&R - title change 0-1-0 (2), Johnny Ace's kidnapping 0-1-0 (2), Rich vs Kelly 0-1-0 (2), Wendell Cooley's turns 0-1-0 (2), Roma vs Lombardi 0-1-0 (2), THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: New Dream Team, Precious as a face, Von Erichs vs anybody, Patera vs Heenan, Lazertron, Billy Jack vs Hercules, Sullivan vs Luger, Arcidi vs Kazmaier, Dusty & Crockett, Bash concept, Atlas vs Arcidi, Murdoch joins Russins, Von Erich over America tour, Wheel of Tourture, JYD vs Race, Strike Force's title win, Kirschner's body bad, Kirschner calls Makhan Singh a draft dodger.

VOTING NOTES: Nothing else stood a chance. The Flair Mannequin skit jumped out to a lead it would never relinquish...some people voted both for this and for film of the actual dream date (with Ron Garvin in drag) as well and we did count them as two separate angles...Hogan and Andre only got half of the points here as they did in best angle or feud of the year, but still it remained controversial as to whether it was good or dumb...readers vented their feelings about some of the smaller angles as well proving that sometimes it's the little things that get under your skin the most....if more people would have known the reason for the Oriental Tool angle, it would have probably done better.

READERS COMMENTS:

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Butch Reed vs Billy graham - two stiffs who looked even worse together. 2) Dusty vs Lex - believability factor = 0, i. e. if these two met in a real fight somewhere, would Rhodes stand a snowball's chance in Hell? 3) PaulJones - Mighty Wilbur - because it will undoubtedly bring back Jimmy Valiant with a push.

DON G SMITH: 1) New Breed being from year 2002, 2) Flair's date with Precious/ron Garvin angle, 3) Flair and the mannequin. Crockett and Dusty did very well in this category..

MIKE MILLER: Tommy Rich vs Adrian Adonis - this one makes me sick. Adrian is so gross that whenever he appears on TV the paint peels off my wall. Rich should quit wrestling and become a fireman. 2) Ric Flair and the mannequin - this one hurt Ric in 1987. Dusty had to find a way for Flair not to have a good year - and this pretty well did it. 3) Billy Jerk Haynes vs Hercules was the dumbest in terms of what they were feuding over. Who else will fight over a full nelson? This one ties with Muraco-Orton. I can't stand either of them. They should have those two in a loser leaves town and have it go to a draw-therefore both would have to leave.

BETH SACKETT: (on her number three choice) - Brutus the Barber Beefcake routine...he now brings outdoor cutters to the ring. STUPID!

HENRY POSTER: (On his second choice)...the AWA's reasoning for Sherri martel, Boris Zhukov and others leaving: "It was too tough.".

DAVE MELTZER: Everything revolving around the Oriental tool because of its reasons for the angle starting.

JEFF BOWDREN: 2nd, The Oriental Tool? Puh-lease! 1st, Ric Flair and Precious. The greatest wrestler in the world, maybe of all time, is revealed on national tV to be a pervert. What a tremendous promotional idea!

ERIC HOYME; The Flair Mannequin thing drew plenty of heat, but i doubt if it sold a single ticket.
¶

WORST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

JUNKYARD DOG

There are many factors involved when determining a bad wrestler. Some wrestlers' gimmick doesn't allow them to have good matches. Others just haven't had the experience it takes to be good. But when even smart fans judge a wrestler, one important fact takes precedence over all the rest: laziness. When a wrestler is lazy in the ring combined with the lack of ability, smart fans are brutal in their critique. Add those factors to an out of shape worker, and you have the perfect recipe for Junkyard Dog, this year's winner.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
JUNKYARD DOG	26	19	10	126
George Steele	6	4	10½	36½
Bugsy McGraw	8	3	6	36
Outback Jack	5	7	5	34
Bob Brown	5	6	2	29
Billy Graham	3	7	4	27
Jimmy Valiant	3	5	7	26
Andre the giant	6	2	1½	23½
Giant Baba	5	2	1	20
Dusty Rhodes	4	2	3	19
Ivan Putski	2	1	2	10
Ox Baker	1	2	2	9
Nikita Koloff	0	4	1	9
Hillbilly Jim	0	3	3	9
Kevin Von Erich	2	1	1	8
Lex Luger	1	1	2	7
Hulk Hogan	1	1	1	6
Paul Avalanche Neu	2	0	0	6
Adrian Adonis	2	0	0	6
Uncle Elmer	1	1	0	5
Ted Arcidi	0	2	1	5
Danny Davis (WWF)	0	1	3	5
S. D. Jones	0	2	0	4
Mighty Wilbur	1	0	0	3
Steve Cox	1	0	0	3
Brutus Beefcake	1	0	0	3
Steve Williams	1	0	0	3
Rick Rude	1	0	0	3
Brian Knobs	1	0	0	3
Blackjack Mulligan	0	1	1	3
Nelson Royal	1	0	0	3
Ron Garvin	1	0	0	3
Jerry Blackwell	1	0	0	3
Shaska Whatley	1	0	0	3
Honky Tonk Man	1	0	0	3
Mike Von Erich	1	0	0	3
Butch reed	1	0	0	3

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Ken Patera 0-1-0 (2), Nicolai Volkoff 0-0-2 (2), Ultimate Warrior 0-0-2 (2), Wahoo McDaniel 0-1-0 (2), Tojo Yamamoto 0-1-0 (2), Bob Armstrong 0-1-0 (2), Sika 0-1-0 (2), Jumbo Tsruta 0-1-0 (2), Ray Stevens 0-0-2 (2), Rufus jones 0-0-2 (2), Wajima 0-1-0 (2), JT Southern 0-1-0 (2), Moose Cholak 0-1-0 (2). THOSE RECEIVING ONE POINT: Lanny Poffo, Baron Von Raschke, Black bart, Bruno Sammartino, Mike Boyette, Mitch Snow, Nasty Boys.

VOTING NOTES: It was no contest for first place -- but the battle for the other top spots in the top ten was certainly a heated battle... despite his death, Mike Von Erich still managed to capture a single first place vote good for three points in this year's poll; he was last year's winner....the average age of those in the top ten must be close to 45 years which should send a message, but it won't.

READERS COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1) Andre the Giant, 2) Junkyard Dog, 3) George Steele. My number one and two picks were close as Andre wrestled in three matches and JYD had about three hundred, but at least JYD can walk (sometimes). Steele, my third choice, has been horrid for two decades. Nice to see a fine tradition upheld.

JEFF BOWDREN: (on his number two pick) Bob Armstrong. Wonder why crowds are down in the Continental area? Don't wonder anymore.

RALPH OBLOZA: Bow Brown 1st. this guy makes Moose Cholak look like Ted DiBiase. Moose Cholak 2nd. Didn't he own a bar on the south side of Chicago? Can't he go back there? 3rd is Ray Stevens. I saw him live and wondered if he really was.

ROBERT MOORE: George the Animal Steele is not on my list because I can't and won't even consider him a wrestler. Billy Graham came to his senses and quit, so he doesn't make it. Danny Davis (3rd) spends much more time out of the ring than in it, and Giant Baba (2nd) is truly pitiful, but JunkYard Dog (1st) is so bad he offends me. I doubt that he even tries.

MIKE MILLER: JunkYard Dog. What a jerk. The term Junk Food Dog couldn't be any more correct. He looks like he could blow up by just putting the chain around his neck. Next is outhouse Jack. This guy has no business in any ring. I would rather watch Little Beaver comb his mohawk. George Steele is third. He makes me sick. The only thing I like is that he provides good comedy when not wrestling. But when the wrestling comes up, all he does is yell "HEY!" and "YOU!" and wave his arms like a confused flagman at a race.

DON G SMITH: (on his top choice)...Paul the Avalanche Neu. I saw him only once, but that was enough.

NAME WITHHELD #1: YOu do realize we could put together a top fifty for this category don't you? Start it off with Valiant, followed by Busgy McGraw and then get down with the dog!

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Junkyard Dog - based mainly on his Wrestlemania match with harley race; he looked completely lost in the ring.

ERIC HOYME: Can I split my votes up 12 different ways? Wrestling ought to have mandatory retirement...like when a wrestler can't walk down the aisle without blowing up or when he forgets if he's playing the heel or babyface...but not on age.

BEST BABYFACE WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

HULK HOGAN

Here is yet another category that had a run away winner, this time with Hulk Hogan pulling down more votes and for the second year in a row. The role of the babyface is quite important; they are the one's who draw the fans to the arenas and this year, more than 93,000 fans were drawn to the Silverdome in Pontiac Michigan to see the ultimate babyface, Hulk Hogan.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
HULK HOGAN	80	7	2	256
Road Warriors	4	20	9	61
Randy Savage	2	20	11	57
Jerry Lawler	1	13	8	37
Rick Steamboat	2	8	4	26
Barry Windham	1	5	6	19
Dusty Rhodes	1	3	4	13
Jim Garvin	0	3	4	10
Riki Choshu	0	3	3	9
Rick Morton	1	0	2	5
Bam Bam Bigelow	1	0	2	5
Nikita Koloff	0	2	1	5
Chigusa Naguyo	0	2	0	4
Don Muraco	1	0	1	4
Brutus Beefcake	0	1	1	3
Ron Garvin	0	1	0	2
Antonio Inoki	0	0	2	2
Michael Hayes	0	0	2	2
Sting	0	0	2	2
Jim Duggan	0	0	2	2
Chris Adams	0	1	0	2
Roddy Piper	0	1	0	2
Elizabeth	0	0	1	1
Rock and Roll Express	0	0	1	1
Tommy Rich	0	0	1	1
Sergeant Slaughter	0	0	1	1
Tatsumi Fujinami	0	0	1	1
Nina	0	0	1	1
Steve Williams	0	0	1	1
Tito Santana	0	0	1	1
Shane Douglas	0	0	1	1
Owen Hart	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Randy Savage was named on 33 ballots (35%) even though he wasn't an official babyface until the last three months of the year. Hogan's 256 points and appearance on 89 ballots took second place in both categories with a 94.6% in being listed. Ricky Morton received one first place vote and two third place votes while his team, the Rock and Roll Express, was named (as a team) on one other ballot in the third place position.

READERS COMMENTS:

ERIC HOYME: You know, Hogan ought to be named first on every single ballot you get. And if he isn't named first, he ought to at least be in the top three. No matter how much you hate the guy, you can't deny he is the ultimate babyface and anyone who didn't place him somewhere (i.e. left him off their ballot completely) is just totally prejudiced and shouldn't even have their votes counted.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I can't bring myself to write in the name Hogan on my ballot even though he should win the number one spot. It's almost ridiculous to have this category because the only race involved will be for the second spot on. Therefore, I am going to name others (instead of Hogan) just so that race for second will mean more.

LANCE LEVINE: (on his third place choice)...Sting - gets great heat here (Chicago) and makes a great entrance for a young babyface.

JOE LILLY: Hulk Hogan is what being a good guy is all about. His character is the epitome of the ideal model, the hero. Although his work isn't good and his matches are he same thing over and over again, both his drawing power and reaction speak for themselves. 2nd are the Road Warriors. To marks, the Warriors are the baddest thing in the universe They draw and get a super reaction all over the world. People want to see the badness in our world destroyed and the Road Warriors are the knights in shining armor that come to do it. 3rd, Dusty Rhodes. Because almost every angle in Jim Crockett Promotions is set up or has something to do with him and because any angle that might threaten his position at the top is either terminated or ruined and because he must feud with every superheel that steps in the area, and because he very rarely steps into the ring for more tan two minutes on TV, Dusty Rhodes can draw a crowd and gets great heat for doing what he does best in the ring - nothing.

NAME WITHHELD #3: My second pick is Dusty Rhodes. Say what you will about how bad his book has become; the man is still over with the marks and that, my friend, is the name of the game.

NAME WITHHELD #1: ...and I'll go with Ricky Morton (I think my typewriter just threw up after naming Hogan first and Rhodes second and now this) third, just because there is absolutely no one better at getting sympathy from a crowd than this obnoxious brat.

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd is Riki Choshu. Eleven thousand Japanese fans chanting "Choshu! Choshu!" and all this guy is doing is SITTING in the stands! 2nd goes to Chigusa Nagayo. All hose Japanese fans chanting "Chee-goose-sa!" ...give the japanese promoters credit for one thing. They know how to get their babyfaces over. 1st, Hogan. How can you vote against a man who goes on the jerry Lewis telethon and holds the nation in the palm of his hand?

JOE COUGHLIN: 1st, Ricky Steamboat. When Hulk's getting killed, no one really worries - they know he'll pull through. But Steamboat gets more sympathy and more swooning from females. Everyone wants to be his mom when he gets hurt cuz he's such a good boy. And he sells great.

BEST HEEL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

TERRY TAYLOR

When his turn was first rumored to be coming about, smart fans questioned the move. How could a wrestler with the face of Terry Taylor be taken seriously enough to fit into the role of a heel? Simple. Taylor allowed an obnoxious side of himself to shine through, a side that most fans had never seen before and the end result was winning Wrestling Forum's Heel of the Year category in a close race.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
TERRY TAYLOR	28	18	10	130
Honky Tonk Man	25	16	16½	123½
Ted DiBiase	20	21	14½	116½
Ric Flair	7	7	5	40
Austin Idol	7	5	5	36
Curt Hennig	3	3	1	16
Eddie Gilbert	1	2	7	14
Andre the Giant	0	2	4	8
Dick Murdoch	0	1	6	8
Randy Savage	1	1	1	6
Arn Anderson	0	2	1	5
Dump matsumoto	1	1	0	5
Manny fernandez	1	0	1	4
Larry Zybszko	0	1	2	4
Dutch Mantel	0	2	0	4
One Man Gang	1	0	0	3
Abdullah the Butcher	1	0	0	3
the Four Horsemen	0	1	1	3
Tommy Rich	0	1	1	3
Rip Rogers	1	0	0	3
Killer Khan	1	0	0	3
Tully Blanchard	0	1	0	2
Midnight Express	0	1	0	2
Bob Orton	0	1	0	2
Rip Oliver	0	1	0	2
Makhan Singh	0	0	2	2
Demolition	0	1	0	2
Brian Adias	0	0	1	1
Jim Cornette	0	0	1	1
Danny Davis (WWF)	0	0	1	1
Iron Sheik	0	0	1	1
Bubba Rogers	0	0	1	1
Sheri Martel	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Throughout the voting procedure, it was a three way race with none of the top three holding a commanding lead. Honky Tonk Man was named on 61.7% of the ballots and both DiBiase and the eventual winner Taylor were named on 59.5%.....While there were four Japanese wrestlers named on babyface ballots, only one was named here and that was a female, Dump Matsumoto. No doubt this can be attributed to the lack of real babyfaces and heels in Japan. Those named in both categories were: Randy Savage and Tommy Rich.

READER COMMENTS:

JOE COUGHLIN: Ted DiBiase. This guy is dispicable. Honky isn't convincing enough whereas Ted appears to be having a ball.

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd, Terry Taylor. OOOOH, but was he obnoxious at the live shows. 2nd, Honky Tonk Man. just a great character and played to the hilt by (Wayne) Ferris. 1st, Ted DiBiase. One of wrestling's true unsung superstars finally gets his due by having the time of his life as the million dollar man.

DAVE MELTZER: 1. Flair (he does everything possible to be a great heel, just because the fans cheer him doesn't make him ineligible because his matches have the most heat around)...2. DiBiase, 3. Hot Stuff (the guy is brilliant).

JOE LILLY: Idol (1st) and Rich (2nd) are two guys that I could never stand as babyfaces, especially Rich. I always thought of Idol as a real "ignat". I never liked his image as the "Universal Heartthrob" and I thought of him as a real goody goody as he waived to the ICW, Continental, and Memphis fans. I always thought of Rich as a dumb southern boy who never knew what the hell he wanted to say. They are two fantastic heels, and they are awesome together. When they turned heel this year, I found new respect for both men.

RON DOBRATZ: Dick Murdoch's attack, using a chair on Steve Williams, was the most villainous action I saw during the year.

ROBERT MOORE: 1) Terry Taylor, 2) Dump Matsumoto, 3) Honky tonk Man... Taylor and Honky Tonk are 100% more effective as heels than they were as babyfaces, although with Taylor at first, I had my doubts. For those of you who don't get to see Matsumoto, she plays the role slightly better han HTM and almost as good as Taylor and certainly MUCH better than any woman in the U.S.

BETH SACKETT: (on her number three pick)...Dick Murdoch...he projects the heel image so well - a beer bellied red neck missing his front teeth talking in between slobbering about his one time tag team partner Dusty Rhodes. Not only that, he's a good wrestler.

LARRY LOVELL: (on his third place pick)...Dick Murdoch. I like the way Murdoch gets over as a heel. He doesn't appeal to the fans of the Horsemen by being hip or clever and his heel red neck image is a straight heel role.

BRUCE STEINBERG: 1) Taylor...who;d have thought...2) DiBiase - he plays his million dollar man role as well as it possibly could. Great in and out of the ring.

DON G SMITH: 1 - Honky Tonk Man...Ferris wins by a mile. He is a perfect heel and gets the heat to prove it. 2 - Andre the Giant...though his ring appearances were few, Andre gave an excellent heel performance. The nuances of this performance may have been overlooked by smart fans and marks alike. 3 - Taylor - Crockett's best heel.

LANCE LEVINE: 1 - Taylor (defined the word "cocky"; inspired hatred unmatched since Piper's attack on Snuka). 2 - Flair, 3 - DiBiase (kicking the basketball away from the dribbling child was classic).

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

JIM CORNETTE

Managers have become more and more important in the past few years as their roles in and out of the ring have increased. They not only have to accompany their charge to the ring, they also have to be able to get across their own personalities on interviews as well as filling the void of those they manage. in a sense, they help to create the persona of the wrestler. Jim Cornette takes the Manager of the Year award for the second straight year winning by a larger margin than last, yet having some increased competition.

MANAGER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
JIM CORNETTE	62	14	8	222
Paul E Dangerously	15	39	13	136
Bobby Heenan	8	18	21	81
Jimmy Hart	2	11	7	35
Downtown Bruno	3	2	9	22
James J Dillon	0	3	8	14
Elizabeth	0	2	2	6
Slick	1	0	3	6
Oliver Humperdink	1	0	2	5
Johnny Valiant	1	0	1	4
Chris Love	1	0	1	4
Eddie Gilbert	0	1	2	4
Marcial Bovee	1	0	0	3
Gary Hart	0	1	1	3
Sherri Martel	0	0	1	1
Percy Pringle	0	0	1	1
Medusa Micelli	0	0	1	1
Brickhouse Brown	0	0	1	1
Mr. Fuji	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Last year's third place manager, Missy Hyatt, didn't pick up a single vote this year...Bobby Hennan slips to second place behind newcomer Paul E. Dangerously...other managers not named were Paul Ellering, Skandor Akbar, and Paul Jones...Downtown Bruno improved over last year capturing 22 points as compared to a single point last year...Cornette led the way from the beginning, but had a narrow lead throughout. He picked up the majority of his votes in the last couple of weeks while Paul E. had strong support in the beginning but it trailed off towards the end of the balloting....last year saw 25 managers tally points where only 19 were able to make this year's list.

READER'S COMMENTS:

ERIC HOYME: It's not that I don't like Jim Cornette anymore (he gets my 1st place vote), but I'd hate to see him run away with it...he might get complacent and not try anymore (does this remind you of Titan's attitude toward live shows?). I'm glad Paul E. has gotten some exposure and hopefully he will give Jim enough of a run for his money that Jim will continue to stay fresh.

LANCE LEVINE: (On his second choice)...Paul E Dangerously ...is still light years behind the master (JIm Cornette).

DON G SMITH: 1) Bobby Heenan - his high WWF profile might earn Heenan this distinction even without Wrestlemania III. With it, Bobby is the unarguable winner. 2) Jim Cornette - Jim is an oasis in Crockett's stale desert. He gives the best interviews in wrestling. Still, he is number two this time around. 3) Paul E. - The only good manager in the AWA, Paul breathes life into the promotion. he would be a top manager anywhere.

NAMEWITHHELD #2: Downtown Bruno is my choice for the top spot here. Cornette was the original fast talking manager who this year was toned down just a bit. Dangerously is just a carbon copy of Cornette. Bruno, on the other hand is a refreshing new twist, combining the best of Cornette and the sloppiness of good old Cap't Lou. If he could hook on with a major promotion, this guy could go places fast.

BETH SACKETT: (on her third place vote)...Percy pringle...I think he's funny and he always gets my attention.

ROBERT MOORE: 1)Cornette, 2) Paul E. , 3) Heenan. Not close. Could have been closer if Dangerously wasn't trapped in the Awful Wrestling Alliance.

RON DOBRATZ: 1) bobby Heenan (could jim Cornette be around wrestling as long as Heenan and be seen as much on TV and be so effective? Could Cornette be so effective in helping Ken patera and PaulOrndorff become babyfaces, or in helping the Islanders and Andre be so hated? And will Jim Cornette ever be able to take a bump as well as Heenan still does?) 2) Gary Hart continues to do a solid job for more than 20 years; my embarrassment at the fact so many smart fans will choose Cornette #1 plus the fact that Paul E Dangerously became a resonably good facsimile in just one year causes me to avoid casting a third place vote.

RALPH OBLOZA: Paul E Dangerously (1st) - he;s at least as obnoxious as Roddy piper at his best...2) Bobby Heenan - I think his interplay with Monsoon is classic. Only trouble is, you almost never see him near a ring anymore.

NAME WITHHELD #7: One of the best things about wrestling is the abundance of good managers...JJ Dillion, Jimmy Hart, Downtown Bruno, and Gary Hart all deserve credit. But Cornette is the best. Paul E. is the manager of the future with great interviews and lots of heat, meritting second place. Heenan did a great job getting Andre over in Wrestlemania III and i'm sure he's a big part of the reason the Silverdome sold out.

NAME WITHHELD #1: Why does it seem that everyone is starting to sound the same on interviews? Do they all subscribe to Orben's Current Comedy (a newsletter that comes out weekly in the entertainment biz that is nothing but jokes and one liners...and cost about $40.00 an issue)?

DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR

DUSTY RHODES

One thing is for sure; 1987 had no shortage of stupid things being done by wrestlers and promoters alike thus no shortage of nominees for our less-than-prestigious DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR award. Month by month, Wrestling Forum named an official dipstick of the month. All of those candidates were eligible as were "nominations from the floor" so to speak. Below are the results of the final balloting. Any candidate who's name is followed by a number is explained below the final tally.

CANDIDATE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
DUSTY RHODES (1)	38	11	15	151
Fritz Von Erich (2)	28	21	16½	142½
Verne Gagne for general principles	7	17	10	65
Jim Crockett Jr. (3)	8	13	9½	59½
Kevin Von Erich (4)	1	2	1	8
Adrian Adonis (5)	1	1	2	7
Vince McMahon for general principles	2	0	1	7
Gorilla Monsoon (6)	1	0	3	6
Iron Sheik & Jim Duggan (7)	0	2	1	5
Hulk Hogan for general principles	1	0	1	4
David Crockett (8)	0	2	0	4
Andre the Giant for turning heel	1	0	1	4
Midnight Rockers (9)	1	0	1	4
Ric Flair (10)	0	1	1	3
Program director at WPTT (11)	1	0	0	3
Rassling Radio (12)	1	0	0	3
Bob Brown for general principles	1	0	0	3
J. L. for letter to Wrestling Forum	1	0	0	3
Kerry Von Erich for attempted comeback	0	1	0	2
Every Booker in the World	0	1	0	2
Virgil Runnels Sr. (13)	0	1	0	2
Honky tonk Man for pushing Elizabeth	0	1	0	2
John Ayers (14)	0	0	1	1
Bill Watts for selling the UWF	0	0	1	1
Chris Adams (15)	0	0	1	1
David McLaine (16)	0	0	1	1
Slick (17)	0	0	1	1
Mark Lowrance (18)	0	0	1	1

NUMBERS KEY

1. For booking such dumb angles; for destroying the UWF; for pushing himself when others are more marketable; for general principles.
2. For his handling of Mike's death; for covering up the misdeeds of his sons; for constant lying to the public; general principles.
3. For allowing Dusty as booker to run the entire company into the ground dropping from a high number two behind Titan to a low number two, far behind Titan.
4. For refusing to do a job to lose the WCCW title to Al Perez and instead, no-showing.
5. For having the chance to ditch theygay act when he left the WWF but instead keeping it upon entering the AWA.
6. For being gorilla Monsoon.
7. For being busted together on drug charges on a new Jersey freeway.
8. For being David Crockett.
9. For blowing their chance with the WWF after just one night.
10. For the mannequin skit; for degrading himself in other ways such as doing jobs for no bodies and never getting a clean pinfall.
11. For cancelling the UWF show and Pro Wrestling This Week in the Pittsburgh market.
12. For their alleged use of newsletter on the air without proper credit.
13. For siring Virgil Jr.
14. For allowing himself to be made the fall guy for the UWF.
15. For being Chris Adams.
16. For being David McLaine.
17. For being Slick.
18. For pretending to be a wrestling announcer.

VOTING NOTES: Almost every ballot that named Dusty Rhodes and jim Crockett numbers one and two cited Dusty for what he's done to the NWA and UWf and Jim Crockett for letting him do it...the numbers key below the results pretty well speak for the fans I think without a whole lot of other detail...Dusty's win here was not a runaway as many had precicted...Fritz Von Erich held the race tight until the very last week when Dusty eeked ahead to stay...Most of the Dusty votes came in after Starrcade which gives an indication that many fans were expecting something spectacular that never materialized...perhaps the most interesting single vote that came in was for Virgil Riley Runnels Sr....

READERS COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #7 : (on their third place vote)...Gorilla Monsoon gets third for his constant lies and general obnoxiousness.

JEFF BOWDREN: a tie. Jim Crockett and Dusty rhodes. The Laurel and Hardy of professional wrestling. Quite an achievement when you consider what Fritz did this year.

DAVE MELTZER: Mr. Crockett for allowing Mr. Runnels to do what he did to your business.

HENRY POSTER: Verne Gagne. Just look at what he's done! This guy has lost the best female in the business (Sherri Martel), he's given a complete nothing like JT Southern a push, he turned Tommy rich babyface! Plus, he let Bockwinkel go without even trying to make him an offer, and has yet to discover a way to put tremendous heat on Hennig, not to mention aking Dangerously to do the impossible task of getting Adonis over! Add to all this the fact that he just doesn't have a clue how to promote and you will see why there isn't even a runner up for this award!

RON DOBRATZ: Verne Gagne...he continues to do the same things I criticized him for since the early 70's - allowing people to think they have witnessed a title change only to learn later the decision was reversed; using too many old wrestlers who are too old and out of shape; advertising wrestlers who never show up; promoting too many main events that result in inconclusive endings; bringing back the same jobbers to lose week after week on TV.

ROBERT MOORE: I agree that this one should be named after Fritz for all the bonehead things he does. As for Dusty (#2), he's taken somehting very good and made it mediocre.

MIKE MILLER: Verne gets this year's dipstick becaue he decided that Wabash (Indiana) wasn't good enough for him to go to so he stayed home to watch Wheel of Fortune (editor's note: referring to the time the entire AWA no showed the town of Wabash). Verne is also known for his lousy payoffs to his boys, only because Greggie's allowance comes first.

LARRY LOVELL: Rhodes (1st) for ruining Flair with the marks 9because Flair can't win without interference) and hurting Flair with smart fans because of the mannequin incident.

BRUCE STEINBERG: Crockett - I like Mr. Crockett, work long hours in a family run business and if I had Dusty working for me and the biz started to drop like the proverbial lead balloon....

BEST TV SHOW OF THE YEAR

NBC'S SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT

The shows produced for television by the different federations are the real backbone of the wrestling business. TV is used to set angles and develop the feuds that are used in live shows. It has come to the point that a wrestling promotion's TV time is nothing more than a commercial to get people into the arenas. This year's winner, Saturday Night's Main Event as shown periodically on NBC-TV has more money spent by Titan Sports to produce than many promotions spend ina six month period producing their own television shows. SNME, being broadcast approximately every other month, almost always sets up a major angle that will be the focus of feuds over the next few months at live arenas across the country.

TV SHOW	1st	2nd	3rd	total
SATURDAY NIGHT"S	31	13	6	125
WWF Superstars	14	24	14	104
Memphis	20	14	9	97
Pro Wrestling This Week	7	10	8	49
Bill Watts Presents UWF	5	3	8	29
New Japan	6	3	0	24
World Championship (TBS)	3	4	6	23
Power Pro	3	2	4	17
Primetime Wrestling (USA)	1	4	3	14
Calgary Stampede	1	2	3	10
Wrestling Challenge-WWF	0	2	2	6
Continental	0	1	3	5
Japanese Women	0	2	1	5
AWA Championship Wrest	1	0	2	5
La Lucha Libra (mexico)	1	0	0	3
All Japan	0	0	2	2
NWF	0	0	2	2
All American (USA)	0	0	1	1
WWF Spotlight	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES:Many fans commented that the Main Event should not be included in this list as it is a occasional production as opposed to other promotion's weekly efforts. The criteria we used here, however were not production values, rather entertainment value....Memphis finished a strong third which considering their limited base operations, says a lot about the popularity of the show...Pro Wrestling This Week also made an impressive showing considering the limited number of markets they are in...Fans still remember the Bill Watts version of the UWF as it managed to scrape together 29 points with it's shortened run from January through April....Lack of interesting angles probably contributed to TBS"s Saturday's show being placed as low as it did, although last year it didn't do much better (14 points)...conspicuous by its absence is the Superbouts from Supertowns special on TBS from last February... the first show they did from 1986 garnered 16 points last year...Last year's winner was Bill Watts' UWF show with 91 points finishing ahead of SNME who had 50...other shows of note that are missing from this list this year are the WCCW show, Crockett's World Wide show, Wild West, and the other TBS shows.

READER COMMENTS:

LANCE LEVINE: 1) World Championship Wrestling (WTBS-Saturday pm) 2) Power Pro, 3) UWF...the last two both on the strength of the first 2/3 of the year and Jim Ross' presence.

DON G SMITH: 1) Prime Time on USA, 2) UWF, 3) AWA Championship Wrestling ...I think World Class has risen to #4 ahead of NWA Championship Wrestling. World Class is improving! The rows of empty seats betray its claims of importance.

ERIC HOYME: I've got to cast my vote here for Bill Watts and his UWF show. Even though it ceased to exist as we knew it before the year was half gone, this may be the last chance for me to honor my all time favorite TV show. Here's a TV show that gave us main events almost every week, was not afraid to show a babyface vs babyface match, had great play by play and color, and never NEVER failed to be entertaining. On those strengths, I chose it number one, even over the mega-bucks production of Saturday Night's Main event. I'll go with the Memphis show third, just based on the reports in your bulletin and on the tapes that i've managed to get on an infrequent basis.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Joe Pedicino has an impossible task. He must work with promotions who are feuding over territorial rights. That alone merits the number one spot.

ROBERT MOORE: 1) Superstars of Wrestling (WWF), 2) New Japan, 3) Memphis... I don't count Saturday Night's Main Event because it is a special and not a regularly scheduled show. Superstars has the best technical quality, bar none, New japan has the best matches and Memphis has the most exciting show with the best angles and action.

RALPH OBLOZA: WWF Superstars (ten times better than anything Crockett does), 2) Pro Wrestling This Week (because it gives me a dose of promotions I wouldn't ordinarily see and I like the Match Classic), 3) World Championship (WTBS - they <u>do</u> seem to have fun with it).

NAME WITHHELD #6; What's all the fuss about production values? Hey, give me enough money and i'll blow you away with fancy stuff too. This category ought to be based on two criteria...how entertaining is the show, and how much does it make you want to see the promotion live. Using those as guidelines, can you argue with 1-Bill Watts' UWF, 2-Memphis and 3-Calgary Stampede?

JOE COUGHLIN: Superstars of Wrestling. The Saturday morning standby. It got me into it years ago (it was called something else then) and I still wouldn't miss it to this day. Saturday Night's Main Event is too much like an awards show, with all the fanfare.

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd Memphis. Always a lot of fun and you never know just what is going to happen. How about Jerry walking out and pointing a <u>gun</u> at Hector Guerrero? 2nd, Superstars. Slickly produced and usually fun to watch because of the dialogue between Vince and Jesse. 1st, New Japan. Best matches and I love the little segments where they show the wrestlers arriving at the arena. Ever notice how all the Japanese wrestlers drive German cars?

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF 1987

BIG BUBBA ROGERS

While some wrestlers who start off green and stiff are content to stay that way, relying solely on their bulk and awesome physiques to get them through their career, others continually strive to improve and progress, winding up as fine workers who have the ability to make themselves and their opponents look good. This year's eventual winner, Big Bubba, made the transition from body guard to wrestler, having some decent matches throughout the year with Ole Anderson (at the Crockett Cup), One Man Gang (in which he won the UWF title) and Steve Williams (who he lost the the uWF title to)..

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
BUBBA ROGERS	23	13	8	103
Sting	19	11	3	82
Lex Luger	6	7	8	40
Curt Hennig	7	4	8	37
Honky Tonk Man	3	5	2	21
Eddie Gilbert	1	4	7	18
Nikita Koloff	2	4	3	17
Pat Tanaka	3	2	2	15
Hulk Hogan	3	2	2	15
Tito Santana	2	3	2	14
Brian Pillman	2	2	0	10
Stan Lane	0	3	3	9
Rick Steiner	3	0	0	9
Bam Bam Bigelow	2	0	1	7
Dynamite Kid	2	0	1	7
Jeff Jarrett	2	0	0	6
Terry Taylor	0	1	4	6
Kendall Windham	1	1	1	6
Paul Roma	1	1	1	6
Don Muraco	1	1	1	6
Brutus Beefcake	2	0	0	6
Keichi Yamada	0	2	1	5
Islanders	0	1	2	4
Kevin Kelly	0	1	1	3
Steve Lombardi	1	0	0	3
Ray rougeau	1	0	0	3
Larry Zybszko	0	1	1	3
Hiroshi Hase	1	0	0	3
Islander Tama	0	1	1	3
Barbarian	1	0	0	3
Chris Benoit	1	0	0	3
Demolition	1	0	0	3
Danny Davis (WWF)	0	1	0	2
Roma/Powers	0	1	0	2
Rick Martel	0	1	0	2
Kazuo Yamazaki	0	1	0	2
Terminators	0	1	0	2
Owen Hart	0	1	0	2
Shane Douglas	0	1	0	2
Wajima	0	1	0	2

OTHERS RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Jim Powers, Keichi Mutoh, TNT, Dingo Warrior (now Ultimate Warrior), Sean Royal, Koko B. Ware, and Sam Houston.

VOTING NOTES: This is the second year that Sting has place second...last year he lost out to Rick Steiner...a couple of tag teams earned mention as tag teams as well as as singles...Powers and Roma were named as a tag team and both were also named as single wrestlers...Islanders were named as a team yet only Tama received any single votes...Ray Rougeau was also named however neither his brother nor his tag team were listed... Lex Luger made a somewhat surprising run at the top spot although Bubba Rogers led throughout most of the voting.

READERS COMMENTS:

GARY FISHMAN: During the 1986 Great American Bashes, Big Bubba was absolutely dreadful. Even during the early part of this year I don't think he was very good. Since then, the improvement has been amazing as he is now one of the top big men in wrestling, all in a matter of a few months. Eddie Gilbert has gone from being a part time wrestler to one of the best Americans around (1 - Bubba, 2 - Gilbert, 3 - Sean Royal).

NAME WITHHELD #7: I know everyone considers Paul Roma to be nothing more than a steroid-laden male Barbie doll, but let's face it; he's gone from horrible to fairly good in 12 months. Pat Tanaka on the other hand has gone from good to great. Muraco gets my third place vote although he's more of a comeback story than an improvement. He <u>is</u> wrestling beter now than he has in five years.

MIKE RAND: 1) Tito Santana, 2) Hogan, 3) Larry Zbyszko...they finally gave Santana a good partner and something to do. Hogan for working better than last year and actually losing on TV. Zbyszko for leaving Verne, coming to Crockett and working better. Bubba Rogers a very close fourth.

NAME WITHHELD #9: (commenting on Jon's original choice for number one in this category)...Nikita has gotten much worse this year and any NWA or UWF wrestler will tell you that. He was bad before, but he is now the hardest wrestler on the circuit to do a match with. Hogan was always below average as a worker and that's what he is. He's not terrible, generally has decent matches that seem exciting because the crowd is with him but he's the same guy he always was. 1) Bubba, 2) Hennig, 3) Stan Lane.

RALPH OBLOZA: (on his number two choice)...Luger...mostly because he <u>could not</u> do an interview when he came to Crockett.

LARRY LOVELL: Luger (1) was pretty bad in Florida and learned to work and sell a decent match with Crockett. I'm a fan of Bubba's (2).

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Sting - this guy could be a real superstar for Crockett if pushed properly. 2) Bubba Rogers - for as long as he's been silent, he's got to be good on interviews too when he finally cracks. 3) Terry Taylor - always strong in the ring but this year he put it all together.

NAME WITHHELD #2: In December of 1986, Dynamite Kid was flat on his back in a hospital bed wondering if he would ever walk again, let alone wrestle. This December, he's doing snap suplexes. THAT'S what I call IMPROVED!

JOE LILLY: Rick Steiner (1)...at the beginning of the year, Steiner was good, but I think that he's even better now. his work has gotten much better. He's impressing me more and more each week on TV and he looked great at Starrcade. I know that he improved a great amount last year, but now he's better than ever. Pat Tanaka (2)...I remember that I really didn't like Pat all that much in December and january. When he turned heel, his work rate got a lot better and I know for a fact that he enjoyed playing heel much more than playing babyface. The bumps that he takes are so quick and hard that they're breathtaking. In my eyes, Tanaka's work rate went from good to unbelievable.

BEST FINISHING MANEUVER

PAUL DIANMOND & PAT TANAKA
THE SLINGSHOT DDT

To see it done and sold correctly, the Slingshot DDT is a thing of beauty. Paul Diamond takes his opponent from a prone position, grabs his legs and sends him flying into an upright position where Pat Tanaka is waiting to send him crashing down to the mat again with one of the best DDT's in wrestling. In our most closely contest category, this move wins the best finishing maneuver of the year.

WRESTLER & MOVE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
DIAMOND & TANAKA"S SLINGSHOT DDT	15	8	1	62
Jake Roberts' DDT	10	12	6	60
Road Warriors' top rope clothesline	10	6	9	51
New Breed's crotch catcher	13	5	1	50
Arn Anderson's Gourdbuster	6	6	5	35
Randy Savage top rope elbow drop	6	5	5	33
Midnight Express "Double-Goosel"	4	2	3	19
Hart Foundation's Heart Attack	3	3	1	16
Bam Bam Bigelow's swan dive splash	2	3	0	12
Owen Hart's blind sunset flip	1	2	2	9
Tama's leap from top rope	1	2	1	8
Chavo Guerrero's backflip from top turnbuckle	1	2	0	7
Keichi Yamada's shooting star press	2	0	0	6
Keiji Mutoh's Moonsault press	1	1	1	6
Midnight Express Flap Jack	1	1	1	6
Midnight Express Rocket Launcher	2	0	0	6
Lex Luger's backbreaker	0	3	0	6
Arn Anderson's spinebuster	1	1	1	6
Negro Casas' twisting small package	2	0	0	6
Barry Windham's Lariat	0	1	3	5
Big Bubba's slam	0	1	3	5
Paul Orndorff's piledriver	1	1	0	5
Tully Blanchard's slingshot suplex	1	0	2	5
Eddie Gilbert's Hot Shot	1	1	0	5
One Man Gang's 747	1	0	1	4
Strike Force's Flying Forearm	1	0	1	4
Midnight Rocker's Rockerplex	0	2	0	4
Chris Adams' Superkick	1	0	1	4
Steve Williams' Oklahoma Stampede	1	0	1	4
Road Warriors' slam from top rope	1	0	0	3
Dingo Warrior's press slam	1	0	0	3
Koko Ware's top rope dropkick	1	0	0	3
Masa Saito's back suplex	1	0	0	3
Greg Valentine's figure four leg lock	1	0	0	3
Don Muraco's piledriver	0	1	1	3
Hulk Hogan's leg drop	0	1	1	3
One Man Gang's Gourdbuster	0	0	2	2
Butch Reed's "gorilla slam"	0	1	0	2
Killer Khan's knee drop	0	1	0	2
Demolition's backbreaker/elbow drop	0	0	2	2
Honk Tonk Man's Shake, Rattle & Roll	0	1	0	2
Midnight Express' Divorce Court	0	1	0	2
Sting's flying tackle	0	1	0	2
Ric Flair's figure four leg lock	0	0	2	2
Riki Choshu's scorpion leg lock	0	1	0	2
Japanese german suplex (any japanese wrestler)	0	1	0	2
Jeff Jarrett's reversal of stuff piledriver	0	1	0	2
Warlord & Koloff's backbreaker/elbow drop	0	1	0	2
Rick Steiner's belly to belly	0	1	0	2

OTHERS RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT:Rock & Roll Express' double dropkick; Dick Murdoch's brainbuster; Troy Orndorff (Shane Douglas) snap suplex; Abdullah the Butcher's elbow; Steamboat's slying body press; Akira Maeda's rolling leg kick; Davey Boy Smith's powerslam; Tamka's DDT; Nikita Koloff's sickle; Barbarian's suplex; Curt Hennig's top rope dropkick; and Brian Pillman's dropkick.

VOTING NOTES: This year's voting for best finishing maneuver may set an all time record for the closest race....onlytwelve points, a mere three first place votes, separated lst place from 4th place....last year's winner, Jake Roberts' DDT finished a close second with strong support in the second and third place votes...the New Breed's crotch catcher took second place in the number of first place votes received, however it failed to garner enough support in the second and third place votes to overtake the Road Warriors' top rope clothesline....the Midnight Express cracked the "best" list with four entries, a tribute to thier versatility with finishing maneuvers...if all their maneuvers were combined in point totals, they would have gotten seven firsts, four seconds and four thirds for a total of 33 points which would have been good for a sixth place tie.

READERS COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #1: There's not many moves that will make me come right out of my seat, but Diamond and Tanaka's slingshot DDT is certainly one of them. Pat does just a little jump or something when applying the move and when he lands he does sort of a roll over. When they have someone in the ring that knows how to sell it properly, there's not a move in the world (Japanese wrestling included) that can come close. 2) Well, maybe the move Keiji Mutoh does can come close. I think they call it the shooting star press and 3) Owen Hart does a blind sunset flip that makes Chavo Guerrero's backflip look tame.
(Editor's note: Keiji Mutoh is the Moonsault press, not the shooting star.)

JOE COUGHLIN: I have to go with Paul Orndorff's piledriver. I still don't know how anyone survives the thing.

JEFF BOWDREN: 3rd, Akira Maeda's rolling leg kick. Opponent is thrown into the corner and then maeda, running towards the corner, does a flip and catches his opponent in the face with the heel of his boot. 2nd, Midnight Express' Divorce court. Not only is this a great looking move, but it also wins the "best name for a hold" competition. 1st, keichi Yamada's shooting star. This one truly has to be seen to be believed. Lots of people have seen reverse flips off the top rope. How many have seen a <u>front flip</u> into a body press?

NAME WITHHELD #3: I guess you could put this into your "I'm most sick of category". Finishing moves are ridiculous nowadays. Hogan is the only one who can use one and have it work. Every star today has a specialty hold or move and it works fine against lowly jobbers. But once they are in the ring with an opponent of any magnitude, forget it. Either it never gets put on, or when it does, someone comes in to interfer so that it can't be completed (a prime example is Lex Luger's backbreaker; if he doesn't drop whoever, he gets attacked). In the "good old days" when a wrestler got HIS finisher on an opponent, that was it. End of match. Even when a star went against a star. But that was before the days of cable TV-itis and the "I won't do a job" syndrome that is so prevalent in wrestling today. About the only place you'll see a finishing move work against another top line star is in Japan and I don't know the names or faces or moves well enough to cast a vote. But just to further illustrate my point, can you see the New Breed catching either the Rock and Roll Express or the midnight Express (depending on whether they turn them heel or babyface) in the crotch catcher? Right.

WORST FINISHING MANEUVER

HULK HOGAN'S LEG DROP

On the other side of the coin there's the finishing maneuvers that are either so dumb looking or so wimpy looking that it would seem as though your Aunt Mabel could survive them. This dishonor in this category goes to Hulk Hogan and his infamous leg drop for the second year in a row.

WRESTLER & MOVER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
HULK HOGAN"S LEG DROP	17	26	8	111
Ron Garvin's Hands of Stone Punch	25	12	6	105
Dusty Rhodes' Weaverlock	15	7	12½	71½
Ron Garvin-the Garvin Stomp	10	3	2	38
Von Erich claw	1	6	11	26
Brian Adias' oriental tool	5	2	1	20
Honky tonk Man's Shake, Rattle & Roll	2	5	2	18
Dusty Rhodes' Bionic Elbow	2	4	0	14
Lex Luger's Backbreaker	2	1	1	9
Bam bam Bigelow's Swan Dive splash	2	1	1	9
Jimmy Valiant's Elbow drop	2	0	2	8
Ivan Putski's polish Hammer	2	1	0	8
Superstar Graham's sleeper	2	0	0	6
George Steele's flying hammerlock	1	1	1	6
Brutus Beefcake's sleeper	0	2	1½	5½
DiBiase's spinning toe hold	1	1	0	5
Jim Garvin's brain buster	0	1	3	5
Nikita Koloff's sickle	1	0	2	5
Superstar Graham's bearhug	1	1	0	5
Bundy/Neu/Blackwell splash	1	0	1	4
Tully Blanchard slingshot suplex	0	2	0	4
Outback Jack's boomerang clothesline	0	1	2	4
Ken Patera's bearhug	1	0	0	3
Rock & Roll Express double dropkick	0	1	1	3
Killer Bees' wing-action	1	0	0	3
Steve Williams' Oklahoma Stampede	0	0	2	2
Jake Roberts' DDT	0	1	0	2
Outback Jack's leg drop	0	1	0	2
Ox Baker's heart punch	0	0	2	2
Greg Gagne's sleeper	0	0	2	2
Adrian Adonis' sleeper	0	1	0	2
Rick Martel's boston crab	0	0	2	2
Islanders' double head butt	0	1	0	2
Randy Savage top rope elbow drop	0	1	0	2
Wahoo McDaniel's chop	0	1	0	2
Bugsy McGraw's splash	0	1	0	2
Ken patera's full nelson	0	1	0	2
Giant Baba's leg drop	0	1	0	2
Andre the Giant's side suplex	0	1	0	2
Bill Dundee's imitation of Dusty Rhodes	0	0	1	1
Curt Hennig's axe	0	0	1	1
Sting's flying tackle	0	0	1	1
Jim Duggan's clothesline	0	0	1	1
Dusty Rhodes' DDT	0	0	1	1
Junk Yard Dog's powerslam	0	0	1	1
Adrian Adonis' blubber smotherer	0	0	1	1
Mighty Wilbur's splash	0	0	1	1
Rick Rude's backbreaker	0	0	1	1
Michael Hayes' bulldog	0	0	1	1
Paul Orndorff's piledriver	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES: Ron Garvin's hand of stone led the balloting up until the final four ballots...the final four saw three of them naming Hogan's leg drop in the top spot to give it the final push it needed for the winning margin....the Weaverlock was a front runner up until just after Starrcade and it probably would have finished a lot higher if Dusty would have won his match at Starrcade with it...lots of moves were named on both lists, with Bam Bam Bigelow's swan dive splash ranking the highest of double entries, followed by Luger's backbreaker and Honky Tonk Man's shake, rattle and roll...The WWF had 24 finishing maneuvers listed here as opposed to the NWA which had only 15.

READERS COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #3: (continuing the diatribe started in the previous category)...I guess that means that every single finishing hold in the United States today ties for first place here.

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1) Luger's backbreaker, 2) Dusty's weaverlock, 3) Ron garvin's knockout punch...How many times is Luger going to drop someone as he's putting him in the backbreaker? Nothing against the move, just Lex. As for Dusty's sleeper, so much hype over a move that a six year old could apply. third place goes to Ron garvin's KO punch. I don't think Mike Tyson could knock someone unconscious by punching them with a jab to the forehead.

ERIC HOYME: I can see it now. Someone is sitting around the bar with the entire booking staff at JCP. Picture it now; they're all well on their way to feeling no pain. Someone suggest that they have someone in the promotion do the most ridiculous looking finishing maneuver they can think of. It has to be something that even the WWF wouldn't use becuase it just looks too dumb. One guy who is almost passed out says, "How bout if somebody stomps all over his opponent while he's laid out on the mat?" Perfect. But every one says, "I'm not gonna try it." Then David somebody or other says, "I know! Let's get Ronnie to try it!" And thus is born the Garvin stomp.

MIKE MILLER: 1) ken Patera and the bearhug. Good ol' Kenny and that pathetic hold. The opponent submits after 1½ seconds. If he had that much strength, the ropes would snap when he climbed in the ring. 2) Hands of Stone - Ron Garvin pretending to be a boxer (you know like David Crockett is pretending to be an announcer when he is really a hot dog vendor). 3) the dreaded weaverlock. I really can't believe that fans think this is any different than the Gagne sleeper. Dusty has them in it for five seconds and the are out. If it worked that quick, they would quit using anesthesia.

BETH SACKETT: (on her number three choice) : Dusty Rhodes' weaverlock... does anyone really believe that?

DON G SMITH: 1) Garvin's hands of stone..this is pretty bad but David Crockett's descriptions, etc., make it nauseating. In fact, the thing I like least about Garvin is David Crockett...2) Hogan's leg drop - what a lame finishing maneuver...3) The Von Erich claw - this was a fearsome finisher when Fritz used it in the 60's. It has been debased and cheapened as it has been passed down to the whole clan.

NAME WITHHELD #1: Ever wonder why announcer preface the name of a particular finishing hold with the word "dreaded" (e. g. the "dreaded" von Erich claw)? It's because we fans dread seeing it applied.

JEFF BOWDREN: (on his number two pick)...Brian Adias and the dreaded Oriental Tool. Not only is this a ridiculous looking move, but it has to win the award for the "Stupidest Name for a Finishing Move".

BEST INTERVIEW OF THE YEAR

JIM CORNETTE

Talent with the microphone has become almost as important as being a good worker. A bad wrestler can still have a decent match if he's in with an opponent who can carry him, but once the cameras start rolling, the harness of reality comes one on one with every "uh" and "er" being recorded for posterity. Video tapes are unyielding so many wrestlers recognize the fact that they can live or die at the box office by what they say and how they say it. Those who aren't capable of doing a good interview have someone like this year's winner, Jim Cornette, ready to speak for them. Cornette is usually funny, sometimes controversial, but never, NEVER boring.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
JIM CORNETTE	46	15	8½	176½
Ric Flair	15	16	17	94
Paul E Dangerously	11	16	14½	79½
Jerry Lawler	3	4	2	19
Ted DiBiase	3	4	1	18
Austin Idol	4	2	1	17
Randy Savage	2	4	3	17
Eddie Gilbert	0	4	4	12
Terry Taylor	2	1	1	9
Sheepherders	1	2	1	8
New Breed	2	0	0	6
Bobby Heenan	0	2	0	6
Honky Tonk Man	0	2	2	6
Hulk Hogan	2	0	0	6
Michael Hayes	0	0	5½	5½
Road Warriors	0	2	1	5
Kevin Sullivan	0	2	1	5
Brian pillman	1	0	2	5
Larry Zbyszko	1	0	1	4
Makhan Singh	0	2	0	4
Downtown Bruno	1	0	0	3
Marcial Bovee	1	0	0	3
Dick Murdoch	1	0	0	3
Jim Garvin	0	1	½	2½
Curt Hennig	0	1	½	2½
Roddy Piper	0	1	0	2
Butch Miller	0	0	2	2
Sting	0	1	0	2
Nord the Barbarian	0	1	0	2
Dusty Rhodes	0	0	2	2
Bill Dundee	0	1	0	2
Johnny Valiant	0	1	0	2
Jimmy Hart	0	1	0	2

OTHERS RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Slick, Four Horsemen, Jake Roberts, Terry Gordy, Brickhouse Brown, hart Foundation, the Grappler.
RECEIVING ONE HALF OF A THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR HALF A POINT: Arn Anderson.

VOTING NOTES: In another run away, Jim Cornette captured this category over last year's winner, Ric Flair. No doubt the mannequin skit hurt Ric here as well as his being held back on interviews to some extent. Last year's second place finisher, Roddy piper, only managed one vote for two points this year, despite being around for the first quarter...

READERS COMMENTS:

DON G SMITH: 1 - Jim Cornette - the funniest, the most cutting; the best! 2 - Honky Tonk Man - very underrated as an interview. 3 - Paul E. Dangerously. Notes: Jimmy Garvin is still good. Savage is getting better. The worst is still Hulk Hogan.

LARRY LOVELL: 1 - Cornette, 2 - Lawler, 3 - Honky Tonk Man. Honky is very campy, so is Paul Jones who many don't appreciate for his funny mock rages.

BETH SACKETT: (on her #3 choice)...Road Warrior Hawk. He sounds so invincible and menacing.

RALPH OBLOZA: 1 - Dick Murdoch...when he's "on".. Does anyone remember the TBS interview where he imitated Dusty by puffing out his cheeks? That was the best, the funniest, most intense and most believable interview I've ever seen...3 - Flair. I really liked his "raving maniac" interviews, e. g. after Ole Anderson ripped his suit.

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1 - Jerry Lawler, 2 - Austin Idol, 3 - Jim Cornette. make no mistake...Jim Cornette is tremendous and very funny. But while Jim makes you laugh, Lawler and Idol make you want to go to the matches. Lawler was around all year, so he gets the nod over 2nd place Idol with Jim Cornette third.

ERIC HOYME: I'm picking Dangerously first this year. The impressions he does adds to the whole routine and while Jim Cornette comes off each week as funny, some times that in itself can get somewhat stale. The imitations keeps Dangerously fresh. I hope that he can land somewhere that he can do an interview segment a la Piper's Pit (other than the dismal AWA). Cornette will be my second choice and as for third, I wish I could pick Flair. But the mannequin thing stops me cold in my tracks so I'll go with Eddie Gilbert so long as he promises to stop trying to imitate Roddy Piper.

MIKE RAND: When given the mike, no body beats Cornette. Sullivan (#2) says some of the most amazing things I've ever heard. 3rd is Larry Zbyszko.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I'm going with DiBiase with my top choice for one main reason; this year he proved he can do three different types of interviews and be excellent at all three. First is the babyface interview he handled in the UWF. Just after the Crockett buyout, he started to do heel interviews with Steve Williams and his subtlety was something else. Also, he does the gimmick heel interview with the million dollar man thing to the hilt as well. This takes versatility and DiBiase is the man here.

MOST DISGUSTING EVENT OF THE YEAR

FRITZ VON ERICH'S HANDLING OF HIS SON'S SUICIDE

It would seem that 1987 set new standards for the limits of bad taste in wrestling. Through the magic of TV we were able to witness an actual hip surgery, see a man's glass eye pulled out and rolled around the ring, mud wrestling, the eating habits of savages, and truth distorted in many other ways never before thought possible. Fans though, spoke out on how Fritz Von Erich handled the death of his son Mike by first suggesting that foul play might have been involved and later having a tribute sung to the late star at the parade of champions while the singer was stationed next to a pit of mud.

EVENT	1st	2nd	3rd	total
FRITZ" HANDLING OF MIKE"S DEATH	27	14	10	119
Flair making out with a mannequin	15	19	9	92
CW Styles' eye being pulled out	15	7	2	61
Adonis' gay act	3	3	4	19
Crockett buys and destroys the UWF	2	3	3	15
Explanation of Adias' oriental tool	3	2	1	14
televising Graham's hip surgery	2	2	3	13
Film of the dream date	4	0	0	12
Superstar Graham wrestling	3	1	1	12
Patera prison skit	2	1	2	10
Ron Garvin winning title	2	0	1	7
Honky Tonk Man pushing Liz	1	0	2	5
Greg gagne's false win of AWA belt/ constant false title changes in AWA	1	0	1	4
Women's wrestling in US	1	0	0	3
Von Erich over America Tour	1	0	0	3
Bruiser Brody bloodbaths	1	0	0	3
Bunkhouse stampedes	1	0	0	3
Mr. T doing interviews on tree cutting	1	0	0	3
Brutus the Barber Beefcake gimmick	0	1	1	3
Dusty exploiting Magnum	1	0	0	3
Andre turns heel	1	0	0	3
Jon's phone call to Rasslin' Radio	1	0	0	3
Downtown Bruno in a jester suit	1	0	0	3
WWF ignoring Duggan/Sheik bust	1	0	0	3
Sika eating live fish	1	0	0	3
Dusty's rude remarks to TBS audience	1	0	0	3
Dusty beating Luger	1	0	0	3
Hogan pinning Andre	0	1	0	2
Crockett buys and destroys Florida	0	1	0	2
Dusty as Crockett's booker	0	1	0	2
Songs of tribute at Parade of Champions	0	1	0	2
Dynamite Kid's demise	0	1	0	2
Jake's snake	0	1	0	2
Sexual innuendoes	0	1	0	2
Steamboat touring hospital for mute after his "accident"	0	1	0	2
AWA allowing obscenities on air	0	1	0	2
World Class wrestling	0	1	0	2
mud matches in WCCW	0	1	0	2
Matsuda's sleeper on Weaver	0	1	0	2
Andre	0	1	0	2
Gordon Solie being fired from Florida	0	1	0	2
Dusty Rhodes wrestling	0	1	0	2
Kamala eating lobster	0	1	0	2
Ricky Morton interviews	0	1	0	2
Lex Luger	0	1	0	2
Hogan - Andre feud	0	0	1½	1½

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Adonis' shaved head, Kevin VE calling Brian "Chris", Reed & Graham's posedowns, Rhodes puting sleeper on Lex in locker room, DiBiase making woman bark, Vol 2 Issue 20 of Forum being late, NWA-UWF TV title unification, Piledriver Album, Kevin losing title, Dusty & nikita winning Crockett Cup, WWF's wasted talent, Tommy Rich ripping Sherri Martel's clothes off, HTM wrestling, Kamala pinning Steamboat in Philadelphia, Riot at Inoki Live. RECEIVING ONE HALF POINT FOR HALF A THIRD PLACE VOTE: Starrcade.

VOTING NOTES: We didn't realize that there were so many things that fans saw as disgusting this past year. I would bet the promoters didn't realize it either. The winner, Fritz' handling of his son's death, took on many different forms in the balloting. Some mentioned the songs athe Parade of Champions (while the singer stood beside a pit of mud) to his attempted coverup, to his alleged plea to the police to make the suicide a homicide investigation so that it could be used for an angle, to downright sick jokes about marketing the Mike Von Erich memorial sleeping bag. It outdistanced Flair's fondling of a mannequin by an impressive margin. Our third place finisher is one that few fans saw, but the descriptions of the event in bulletins had enough of an impact to give it a strong run at the top spots. The angle where they pulled out CW Styles' glass eye and rolled i around the ring happened in the Deep South promotion, a group that is not readily available.

READERS" COMMENTS:

ROBERT MOORE: The eye was pretty bad, but can you imagine trying to capitalize on the suicide of your own son, especially when it may, in part, have been caused by pressures brought on by yourself?

LINDA SILFEN: (on her number two choice)...showing Billy Graham's surgery... I'm a nurse and it almost made me lose my lunch.

MIKE MILLER: 1 - Flair and the mannequin. 2 - Brutus Beefcake and his barber act...I wouldn't even let him cut my grass. 3 - Ken Patera and the comeback. like really, let's give sympathy to a man who breaks a window at a McDonalds. He would have been a good heel if they would have reversed it.

DON G SMITH: 1 - the glass eye (I'll take your word for it)...2 - Crockett's over all promotion of sexual innuendos...It is hard to point to just one event as most disgusting when you consider the Crockett-Rhodes foray into soft porn promotion. I'm not a prude; I liked "last Tango in Paris". But in this case, the sexual angles and innuendo simply underscore the dearth of good ideas.

wrestling forum yearbook extra....

EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS
by Jon Gallagher

BEST OFF THE BENCH INTO A STARTING JOB AWARD: Honky Tonk Man.
BEST "IT WAS ONLY A TWO COUNT, REF! HONEST!" AWARD: Andre the Giant when HE had Hogan pinned at Wrestlemania.
BEST AIRLINE PASSENGER AWARD: Jim Neidhart
JOSEPH A BIDEN AWARD: Titan Sports
BEST ATTACK OF A RINGSIDE FAN: Terry Taylor in Pennsylvania
MOST LIKELY TO BE FAST FORWARDED THROUGH: Jimmy Valiant & Bugsy McGraw
BEST IMPERSONATION OF A MARK BY A SMART FAN: Bill Apter
WORST IMITATION OF A WRESTLING ANNOUNCER: Don Gay
BEST FAKE TEARS: Soul Train's kid when Ted kicked the basketball away.
BEST FORGOTTEN ANGLE: Johnny Ace's kidnapping
THE GRIM REAPER OF WRESTLING PROMOTIONS AWARD: Jim Crockett and Dusty Rhodes (tie)

and from Jeff Archey

BEST NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO GET OFF UNEMPLOYMENT: Jon Gallagher

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

TOMMY YOUNG

Up until a few years ago, referees were appointed to matches by the state athletic commissions. Their job was merely to govern over the matches and pretty well go along with the script. In recent years, through the deregulation of wrestling by many states and the less stringent rules by others, promotions have been able to use their own referees, trained and employed by the promotion. This allows for more flexible booking as the referees have become more proficient at talking bumps and making sure they don't see what they not supposed to. The winner this year is a man who has worked for the Crockett promotion for the past several years and is a master at working with his wrestlers night after night. Tommy young takes some of the best bumps around and generally lets the wrestlers have the spotlight, stepping into it only when the script calls for it.

REFEREE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
TOMMY YOUNG	42	20	4	170
Dave Hebner	21	18	10	109
Joey Morella	2	6	4	22
Danny Davis	4	3	1	19
Jerry Calhoun	3	2	1	14
Carl Fergie	1	4	1½	12½
Dick Whorley	2	2	1	11
Gary DeRusha	0	2	4	8
Sandy Barr	1	1	2½	7½
Dick Kroll	0	2	3	7
Tommy gilbert	2	0	1	7
Earl Hebner	2	0	1	7
Roy George	2	0	0	6
Ken Jugan	0	1	3	5
Johnny Red Shoes Dugam	1	0	2	5
Bill Alphonso	0	1	2	4
Scrappy McGown	0	2	0	4
Wayne Hart	1	0	1	4
Teddy Long	1	0	0	3
Eddie Sharky	1	0	0	3
Rod Hayter	1	0	0	3
Jesse Hernandez	1	0	0	3
Pewee Anderson	1	0	0	3
Larry Lisowski	0	1	0	2
Randy Anderson	0	1	0	2
Paul Richard	0	1	0	2
short stocky WWF guy	0	1	0	2
Jergan Herman	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Gilberto Roman, Bruce Kreitzman, Santos Ramos, Bronco Levich, Sergio Garcia, Bob Warren, Wayne Hart.

VOTING NOTES: Tommy Young led from day one with only Hebner ever challenging for the lead...this was a new category so there was no winner last year.

READERS COMMENTS:

BRUCE STEINBERG: (on his number two choice)...Joey Morella. I wonder if his license plates read "Kay Fabe - 2" ?

RON DOBRATZ: None. A three-way tie for 3rd place. Scott LeDoux, Dave Hebner, and Tommy Young. I'd say drop this category because nobody cares, but in reality, good referees should be recognized as such. Where are they?

HENRY POSTER: Tommy Young. He's consistently a great ref, knows when to turn around, how to act with managers, and that bit about him almost turning heel was great. 2nd, Dave Hebner.

NAME WITHHELD #1: I'm glad to see this category. So many times fans pay attention only to what the wrestlers do inside the ring with no regard for any other things going on. The ref's job is extremely imprtant just as is the manager's. A bad ref can make things look phonier than the actual work in the ring if he turns around at the wrong time and sees something he was supposed to have missed. My choice for the best is Tommy Young, whose timing is incredible night after night. I think that's more important that a ref who can take a bump, although he gets his share. Number two is the man who takes the best ref bumps in the business, Dave hebner. When he takes his bump, he looks like he got creamed which allows him to lay out for a while. So many times a ref will take a bump that looks like it would knock over your grandmother and still sell it to the point of nauseum.

ERIC HOYME: is it my imagination or is the role of a referee being played up more now than in the past. This past year we saw what had to be a number of referee bumps as well as Tommy Young almost turning heel and Danny Davis doing the complete turn. Then Wrestling Forum introduces the best referee category. Do the referee's have a professional lobbiest working for their cause or what? I'm starting to get suspicious.

NAME WITHHELD #10: I don't think this is a good category to have. The referee isn't supposed to be noticed. Just stand in the ring and do the three count or whatever. like you once said, he's supposed to "blend in" with the match, not be the main focal point. I'm not going to cast a vote here for those reasons.

JOE COUGHLIN: If Dick Whorley is still working, I'm sure he's up to his usual par and I vote for him. Otherwise, nobody.

NAME WITHHELD #3: I guess Tommy Young. After all, when he was turning heel, he told us that he had been voted best referee for the last how ever many years it was. Gee, I didn't realize that you or Meltzer had this category before. Come on. It was all a work to get you to have the category so he could officially win, right?

BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

Although the newsstand magazines range from half truths to meaningless drivel, they do serve the purpose of not only getting the news out to the marks, but also they provide smart fans and marks alike with photographs obtainable through no other means. This year's winner is a repeat winner from last year with Bill Apter and his staff at the Stanley Wesson magazines running away with both first and second places.

MAGAZINE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED	40	14	5	153
Wrestling 87	15	10	4	69
Wrestling Eye	5	11	10	47
WWF magazine	5	7	5	34
Superstar Wrestler	2	3	0	12
Celebrity Wrestling	3	0	0	9
Inside Wrestling	1	1	2	7
Main Event	1	0	4	7
Wrestling World	2	0	0	6
UWF's All Pro Wrestling*	0	2	1	5
Keitzer's Wrestling News	0	2	1	5
Championship Wrestling	0	1	1	3
Gold Belt Wrestling	0	0	3	3
the Wrestler	0	0	2	2
Double Action Wrestling	0	1	0	2
Wrestling Insider	0	1	0	2
Wrestling beauties	0	0	1	1
GLOW magazine	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES; Only 84 of the 94 ballots cast voted in this category, most citing the reason as being "I don't read magazines"....Wrestling Eye's popularity with the fans seems to have taken a nose dive with the death of the original editor, Mike Bellew...even with the increased voting this year, Eye was still not able to match it's number of points from last year (54) which was good for a second place finish...on the other hand, PWI managed to more than double it's number of points (from 70 to 153) taking the category for the second straight year...*All Pro Wrestling has now turned into NWA Pro Wrestling Digest and should have more distribution than its limited forerunner...newsletters were not included on this list.

READER'S COMMENTS:

NAME WITHHELD #2: If I'm looking for pictures, then I buy the magazines. Oh, sometimes I read them just for laughs. These guys should be fiction writers (whoops, I guess they already are). One thing of note, especially with the Wesson (Apter) group...they want to be the most current so they try to find out the upcoming angles from the promotions so they can get a jump on everyone. Sometimes it backfires and they print the story as if someone is going to turn and they don't. Nothing like waking up with egg on your face, eh?

NAME WITHHELD #4: Best newsstand magazine? That's an oxymoron...like military intelligence, jumbo shrimp...

DON G SMITH: Wrestling World - Except for Wrestling Eye, which I have boycotted, this is the only magazine I've seen that acts as though some of the fans might have an iota of sense...Norm Keitzer's Wrestling News (2nd) is too irregular at best, but it is an intelligent magazine.

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1-Pro Wrestling Illustrated, 2-Inside Wrestling, 3-the Wrestler. Let's give Apter's people credit. You have to lie sometimes and now they don't lie as much. Also, their information is more up to date than the others.

ERIC HOYME: I'm going with Pro Wrestling Illustrated first. Craig Peters is always fun to read and Eddie Ellner gets in some fun pokes at his mark audience. Sure, there's stuff wrong with it (like the PWI poll that has to have numbers selected at random) and the Year End BS that they do, but it's better than the rest. Second is a sister publication, Wrestling 87. I like the slick paper and the color photos and that makes it worth buying. Third goes to the WWF Magazine. If you take away the merchandise ads you usually have one or two pages of good photos. As for content, I think you'd be better informed by reading the Russian national newspaper.

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BIGGEST SHOCK OF THE YEAR

BILL WATTS SELLS THE UWF

When describing what constitutes a shock, my explanation has been "whatever makes your mouth drop open". The biggest shock then should have been gauged on how far your bottom jaw actually dropped. Lots of events were placed into nomination with the sale of the UWF leading the way.

EVENT	1st	2nd	3rd	total
BILL WATTS SELLS THE UWF	32	14	7	131
Mike Von Erich's suicide	19	20	6	103
Honky Tonk wins title/gets a push	13	16	19½	90½
Ron Garvin wins NWA title	5	8	7½	38½
Andre does a job at Wrestlemania	3	1	0	11
Suicide of NWA/UWF	1	3	1	10
Success of Wrestlemania	2	1	1	9
Lawler loses his hair	1	2	1	8
Sheik/Duggan drug bust	1	0	3	6
AWA surviving and remaining on ESPN	2	0	0	6
Mad Dog Vachon's accident	1	1	0	5
DiBiase signs with WWF	1	1	0	5
Roddy Piper retires	1	1	0	5
UWF demise	1	0	1	4
Choshu jumps from All Japan to New Japan	1	0	1	4
Crockett buys the UWF	1	0	1	4
Kerry Von erich's return	0	1	1	3
WWF bans the blade	0	1	1	3
Luger joins the horsemen	1	0	0	3
Widespread use of illegal drugs	1	0	0	3
Andre turns heel	1	0	0	3
SD Jones is fired	1	0	0	3
Warriors fail to win belts at Starrcade	1	0	0	3
the number of no shows at Crocket Cup (0)	1	0	0	3
Pacific Northwest revitalized	1	0	0	3
Mal Kirk's death	0	1	0	2
Brody does a job	0	1	0	2
Terry Taylor's car accident	0	1	0	2
V2I20 of Forum being late	0	1	0	2
Lawler/Dundee win AWA tag belts	0	1	0	2
Terry Taylor turn	0	1	0	2
Mulkeys win on TV	0	1	0	2
Crockett's financial problems	0	1	0	2
Dusty still wrestling	0	1	0	2
Savage turns babyface	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Sherri Martel leaves the AWA, HTM beats Savage at Wrestlemania, Starrcade in another location besides Greensboro, Strike Force wins titles, Rockers go to WWF for one night, Billy Graham's comeback, Steve Keirn turns heel, GLOW & POWW draws more than 3 people for live shows, Gordon Solie fired, Freebirds breakup, Dynamite Kid's comeback, Terry Taylor does job for Davey Haskins, Missy marries Eddie, mantel buys WCCW, Hogan slams Andre.

VOTING NOTES: several nominations would appear to be the same, but the readers sending in the votes specifically pointed out that they were different...for example, two readers pointed out that they were not shocked that Bill Watts sold out, but hat they were shocked that it was Crockett who did the buying...the fact that the uWF beat out Mike Von Erich's death is a statement of sorts...many knew how he felt about wrestling and pointed out his unhappiness before his suicide, therefore noting that it wasn't a shock to them...the sale of the UWF led throughout the voting with Mike's death second...HTM and Garvin winning their titles were close in the beginning, but HTM pulled away for the third place finish.

READERS COMMENTS:

LANCE LEVINE: 1) NWA purchase of UWF (I thought Watts was on the verge of something really special) 2) Mike Von Erich's suicide (although the symptoms were there, I never really envisioned this actually happening) 3) the push of Honky Tonk Man (I thought this guy was just going to be another WWF babyface jobber).

DON G SMITH: Mike Von Erich's death - still when I saw the headline that a wrestler had dies, Mike's name came to mind before I turned to the article.

ROBERT MOORE: The fact that the UWF, one of the best promotions around had been let to to waste the way it has shocks me, but Honky Tonk Man (winning the title) even more so. I knew Steamboat was taking a sabbatical, so him losing it wasn't shocking in and of itself, but the Honky Tonk Man?

HENRY POSTER: 1) Andre turns heel. Although we could see it a mile away, I still couldn't believe they'd actually do it. 2) Andre does a job for Hulk. To imagine, they destroyed "the Legend of Andre" just to put Hogan over bigger!

KAREN SHEHORN: 1) the sale of the UWF - the worst thing to happen to wrestling in years.

NAME WITHHELD #7: 1 - the sale of the UWF, 2 - Honky Tonk wins the Intercontinental title, 3 - Mike Von Erich's death. Ron Garvin winning the title was not a shock as there were lots of rumors of a title change going around before it occurred. Also, Dusty Rhodes not getting fired as booker or not giving himself a title before Thanksgiving were both big surprises.

ERIC HOYME: The sale of the UWF hit me like a ton of bricks. I had sort of an empty feeling inside me when I read that, sort of the same feeling I got the weekend I tuned in to WTBS to see Georgia Championship Wrestling and was shocked by Freddy Miller introducing Vince McMahon. Second place goes to the NWA purposely destroying the UWF after buying them. After my initial shock from the sale, I figured that the two would be run independently of each other and the UWF to be built up to the point of being an equal. Third place goes not necessarily to HTM winning the title, but to the push that he's gotten. I figured he would be nothing more than an interim champ. He's held the belt over six months!

NAME WITHHELD #3: I knew that Wrestlemania would draw. But ninety three thousand people? And millions more on pay per view? I doubt if Vince had expected <u>that</u> kind of success. Second is Jerry lawler losing his hair to Austin Idol. Going in, it was either that or refunding money to everyone at the building, but I figured Idol would lose and then refuse to refund anything at all, thus getting him over more. I think cutting Lawler's hair was more effective than that ever could have been.

WORST ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

DAVID CROCKETT

Sometimes you have to wonder whether or not the guy calling the action has ever really seen a wrestling match or not. Others, you have to not only wonder HOW they got their job, but how they manage to keep it. In the case of our winner, David Crockett, the question is, "How fast would he be gone if his brother didn't own the promotion?".

ANNOUNCER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
DAVID CROCKETT	39	17	7	158
David McLaine	9	10	4	51
Ron Trongard	6	6	11	43
Gorilla monsoon	7	7	7	42
Larry Nelson	4	9	7	37
Bill Mercer	6	6	6	36
Lord Alfred Hayes	5	2	2	21
Vince McMahon	4	2	4	20
Mark Lowrance	1	2	5	12
Mike McGuirk	1	3	2	11
Milt Auruskin	2	0	1	7
Bruno Sammartino	0	1	4	6
Verne Gagne	0	3	0	6
Missy Hyatt	0	3	0	6
Steve Keirn	1	1	0	5
James Blears	1	1	0	5
Billy Red Lyons	0	2	0	4
Kerry Von Erich	1	0	1	4
Bobby Heenan	1	0	1	4
Johnny Weaver	1	0	0	3
Don Muraco	1	0	0	3
Ken Resnik	1	0	0	3
Gene Okerlund	0	1	1	3
Duke Dougherty	0	0	3	3
Don Gay	1	0	0	3
Max Headroom imitation from GLOW	0	1	0	2
Gordon Solie	0	0	1	1
Tony Shivone	0	0	1	1
Randy Hales	0	0	1	1
Nick Bockwinkel	0	0	1	1

VOING NOTES: Interesting that the announcers that our readers chose as the best (Jim Ross, Lance Russell, and Jesse Ventura) did not receive a single vote as worst announcer...a tribute to their popularity and talents...Although David Crockett was a runaway winner, the rest of the pack stayed pretty well lumped together and some interesting battles developed...not too many fans seemed to care for wrestling's only female announcer Mike McGuirk...this is the first year for this award so there was no previous winner....not sure of the guy's name from GLOW who we refer to as a Max Headroom imitator...neither was the reader who voted.

READERS COMMENTS:

JOE COUGHLIN: I have to give this to Vince. Because of the size of his audience, you'd think he'd have a little more class, bu the guy is an embarrassment, especially that laugh of his when JYD dances with a kid or whatever babyface does his bit.

GARY FISHMAN: 1 - Steve Keirn, 2 - gorilla monsoon, 3 - Vince McMahon. Steve Keirn was possibly the worst play by play man of all time. I fell asleep three times before I got through the Florida show. If I hear Vince McMahon say, "Oh, no! Oh, no!" one more time upon the heel's entrance to the ring, I will smash in my tV set.

RALPH OBLOZA: Mark Lowrance: I don't care what anyone says, I think he's worse than Bill Mercer.

ROBERT MOORE: 1 - David Crockett, 2 - Ron Tronguard, 3 - Mark Lowrance. All are incredibly bad, to the point of irritation and embarrassment, but nepotism prevails and Crockett gets my vote.

MIKE MILLER: 1 - Ron Tronguard - he is as obnoxious as Gorilla monsoon. During one play by play at the Minneapolis tapes with Verne, Greg had the sleeper on a jobber and Ron said something to the effect of "Oh, Greg has the sleeper on so-and-so" and then Verne goes into a three minute thing about the sleeper while the jobber falls asleep along with everyone at home. 2 - Verne Gagne - Verne tries to sound like what he is saying is supposed to sound logical - like when Nick Bockwinkel is talking. Of course he doesn't. 3 - David Crockett - If anyone won't make you turn down the sound, i don't know who will. Davey, it seems, wears the same suit every week. I really can't understand why he is never serious. Maybe it's because Jimmy tells him on a weekly basis that he will be kept on, so Davey does his usual job being the only announcer who not only looks like a jerk, but is a jerk.

LARRY LOVELL: 1) Monsoon. I hate to listen to his repetitious crap. I don't get Superstars and have to watch Wrestling Challenge and the USA shows to see the WWF. He gets worse every week to me. 2) David Crockett. He's always been bad, but lately he has gotten worse, making me doubt if anyone could be as bad as monsoon. As for David McLaine, he's so bad he's funny. Guess I have an odd sense of humor. I watch Monty Python, so...

LANCE LEVINE: Lord James Blears -his "uno, dos, tres" on pinfalls is the ultimate annoyance.

DON G SMITH: The most improved announcer is former runner up for worst announcer, Larry Nelson. If he can avoid stupid stunts like his effusion over the Midnight Rockers, Nelson will be a contender for best announcer in 1988.

"I'M MOST SICK OF..."

Along with our regular balloting, we asked you to fill in the blank in "I'm most sick of...". Dusty Rhodes would have been the runaway winner had this been a straight contest for most votes. What we were looking for was for readers to expound on their thoughts. Here is a random sampling of what came through the mail...

STEVE YOHE: How about the same finishes all the time. Such as the referee bumps in the NWA...or the outside interference in the WWF (Manager stands on apron, babyface goes after him and is hit from behind with knee for the pin)...or the reverse of a sunset roll while the ref's back is turned. Also it bothers me for "smart" fans (to) make fun of great old wrestlers like Shohei Baba. I've seen Baba in great matches against the Destroyer, Gene Kiniski, Sammartino, Brazil and Fred Blasse and I think he deserves more respect than he gets these days. Fifteen years ago he would have wrestled rings around most of the muscle men of today. I don't see anything wrong with old guys continuing to wrestle past their prime as long as they're not pushed too hard. I'll always pay to see them.

LANE LEVINE: ...Hulk Hogan's posing. His performance at the Survivor's Series marred an otherwise excellent show. He LOST and yet is the last man in the ring when it was over, posing and flexing! Enough is enough, Vince. I think it's about time he shave off what hair he has left and become a heel, letting Macho Man assume the throne.

NANNETTE JOHNSON: ...people like Ken patera and Jim Duggan being glorified. Patera broke a policewoman's arm (or leg, I can't remember) and was denied parole because he would never admit remorse. Jim Duggan was driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol endangering other people's lives.

NICK GEORGES: ...not seeing any change in the nWA talent roster.

BEV RAINES: ...of sitting back and watching bright, talented wresters (i.e. Bret Hart) go virtually unnoticed while lazy, untalented "fools" (i.e. Junk yard Dog, Lex Luger) shine in their spotlights. It's time we recognize talent and work instead of personality and gimmick.

RON DOBRATZ: ...matches ending after a clothesline (if it happens in less than 2 minutes it includes my second major criticism - matches that are too brief).

SCOTT DICKINSON: ...people looking at Titan as the best. The name of the game is wrestling. Titan doesn't have the best wrestling by far. Who cares about production, marketing, etc if the wrestling sucks? My favorites are Memphis, Continental and Crockett.

CHARLES HODGEKISSON: ...of Dusty Rhodes' BS like "The heartbeat of America" and how great Dusty is. Hulkamania sells TICKETS. The Dream doesn't.

ROBERT MOORE: ...Dusty Rhodes' ego. It has taken an alliance that, what with the acquisition of the UWF, has perhaps the best collection of good, solid workers in the US and somehow (and it couldn't have been easy) made it stale, hard to watch and, sometimes downright boring. Come on, Crockett, put your foot down and DEMAND (after all, you ARE the boss) some changes. Fresh angles, a few key turns (Flair, Ron Garvin, Nikita Koloff) and the return to a prominent position of some of the top UWF guys are imperative for you to even think about competing with Titan, if not, I'll be starting work soon on my first creenplay, "The Ego that Ate the NWA". I hope I'm wrong.

GARY FISHMAN: ...the so called smart fans who lavish praise upon the WWF for reasons that have nothing to do with wrestling or what wrestling is about. I had more pleasure attending a NWF card in a dark dingy sweatbox in the middle of nowhere than I obtained from all of the WWF cards I have attended for the past three years. If people want glitz, glitter, respectability and ice box frigidity, let them come to new York to attend Radio City Music Hall. Without tension, explosiveness and top notch wrestling skill being displayed, professional wrestling is suddenly acceptable by the masses but no longer can have the heart and guts that men like the Funks, Bill Watts and younger versions of harley Race and Nick Bockwinkel worked so hard to put into it.

MIKE VIOLA: Mispelled (sic) words in the Forum.

MIKE RAND: ...Dusty Rhodes. Words cannot explain how I feel about allthe things he has and hasn't done to screw up the NWA, UWF, Florida and all the fans who could be seeing some of the best wrestling in the world.

JOE COUGHLIN: ...wrestling music videos and any musical connections; Duggan's 2 x 4; the Barber angle.

MIKE MILLER: ...fans getting ripped off. If it isn't Daddy Fritz trying to make money because of a death in the family, then it's Daddy verne pushing Greggie to being a contender for the AWA HEAVYWEIGHT title. Although Greg weighs no more than Little Tokyo, he should still gain some weight to at least make him look bigger than Little Beaver. Then we have gracious Dusty, who weighs more than Abdullah the Butcher and King Kong Bundy, deciding to run an angle instead of a match. So Chicago fans don't get to see Flair vs Animal - they see an angle worth three minutes of action. Of course we can't forget Jimmy Crockett and his little deals to make money off toilet groups like Central States and Florida - that, when he decides to buy them, they get flushed. To top off all of this, there is Verne again who decides that Wabash, Indiana isn't good enough to travel to, only so that he can stay home and watch old tapes of Butch Reed and Rufus Jones. We can't forget Vince, who in the middle of all this is still wearing Hulk-a-Mania tee-shirts when watching Prime Time wrestling while Gorilla, Gene and Lord Alfred play with the wrestling dolls.

1987 TITLE HISTORIES

by SEAN GRANDE

The following is a compilation of all title changes for the year 1987. The list is as complete as we could make it.

Several promotions such as the Central States promotion, do not keep accurate records of title changes, particularly in the way of dates. This list was compiled through several sources including the Wrestling forum, the Wrestling Observer and the newsstand magazines.

In several instances this year, titles were either held up or abandoned. We have listed below each championship the quirks pertaining to that title. There are also several examples of titles changing hands in matches that either never took place or in one case, a match that actually took place a few months before the title change was announced. Jim Crockett Promotions was the biggest offender of this with his buying of other promotions only to maneuver the titles to his best advantage.

The list is complete through December 31, 1987. Each championship begins with the wrestler who held the belt going into the year along with the date and site of the win.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Hulk Hogan, who won the title on 1-23-84 held the title all year long.

INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Randy Savage	2-8-86	Boston, MA
Ricky Steamboat	3-29-87	Pontiac, MI
Wayne Ferris	6-2-87	Buffalo, NY

TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Davey Boy Smith/Dynamite Kid	4-7-86	Chicago, IL
Jim Neidhart/Bret Hart	1-26-87	Tampa, FL
Tito Santana/Rick Martel	10-27-87	Syracuse, NY

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

AWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Nick Bockwinkel	6-29-86	Denver, CO (1)
Curt Hennig	5-2-87	San francisco, CA (2)

(1) Bockwinkel was awarded the championship after Stan Hansen refused to "do a job" and walked out of the building and the AWA.
(2) The title was held up briefly as the AWA negotiated with Hennig to stay with the promotion. Hennig allegedly used a foreign object to gain the victory and as the story went, video tapes were being viewed to determine the outcome. When Hennig agreed to stay, he was awarded the championship. The title was held up on other occasions during the years as well, but only in the city of Minneapolis, MN to set angles for upcoming shows.

AWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Buddy Rose/Doug Sommers	5-17-86	Hammond, IN
Marty Janetty/Shawn Michaels	1-27-87	Bloomington, MN
Soldat Ustinov/Boris Zhukov	5-22-87	Lake Tahoe, UT
Bill Dundee/Jerry Lawler	10-10-87	Memphis, TN (1)
Dr. D/Hecotr Guererro	10-19-87	Memphis, TN
Bill Dundee/Jerry Lawler	10-26-87	Memphis, TN
Dennis Condrey/Randy Rose	10-30-87	Whitewater, WI

(1) Borid Zhukov left the AWA for the WWF and he was replaced in this match by Doug Sommers.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Ric Flair	8-9-86	St. Louis, MO
Ronnie Garvin	9-25-87	Detroit, MI
Ric Flair	11-26-87	Chicago, IL

UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Nikita Koloff	8-17-86	Charlotte, NC (1)
Lex Luger	7-11-87	Greensboro, NC
Dusty Rhodes	11-26-87	Chicago, IL

(1) won a best of seven series from Magnum TA

TELEVISION TITLE

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Tully Blanchard	11-27-86	Greensboro, NC
Nikita Koloff	8-17-87	Fayetville, NC (1)

(1) This title was unified with the UWF TV title on 11-26-87 at Starrcade in Chicago IL with Nikita defeating Terry Taylor.

NATIONAL/UNITED STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Ron Garvin/barry Windham	12-9-86	Raleigh, NC
Dick Murdoch/Ivan Koloff	3-14-87	Atlanta, GA
Bobby Eaton/Stan Lane	5-16-87	Atlanta, GA (1)

(1) After the NWA "suspended" Dick Murdoch (for dropping Nikita Koloff on the cement floor in a brain buster) the titles were declared vacant. The Midnight Express won the titles in a tournament final over Barry Windham and Ron Garvin.

NWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Manny Fernandez/Rick Rude	12-6-86	Atlanta, GA
Rick Morton/Robert Gibson	5-26-87	Spokane, WA (1)
Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson	9-29-87	Misenheimer, NC

(1) This match did not take place as JIm Crockett Promotions would have us believe. The match shown on TV was a non title match that had been taped months earlier. The reason for the chicanery was due to Rick Rude's departure for the WWF without giving up his share of the tag belts.

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Denny Brown	9-1-86	Greensville, SC
Lazertron (Hector Guerrero)	3-7-87	Atlanta, GA
Nelson Royal	10-16-87	Charlotte, NC (1)

(1) This title change took place in the offices of Jim Crockett Promotions as Guerrero left the promotion for the Memphis area.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
One Man Gang	11-9-86	Tulsa, OK (1)
Bubba Rogers	4-19-87	Muskogee, OK
Steve Williams	7-11-87	Oklahoma City, OK

(1) One Man Gang was awarded the title after Terry Gordy defaulted due to an injury suffered earlier that night.

UWF TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Savannah Jack	11-9-86	Tulsa, OK
Eddie Gilbert	3-8-87	Tulsa, OK
Shane Douglas	8-3-87	Morgan City, LA
Terry Taylor	9-2-87	Lafayette, LA
Nikita Koloff	11-26-87	Chicago, IL (1)

(1) title unified with NWA TV title on 11-26 at Starrcade.

WESTERN STATES HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Barry Windham	6-20-87	Houston, TX

Windham defeated Black Bart in a tournament final to capture this new championship title.

UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Jim Duggan/Terry Taylor	12-27-86	Fort Worth, TX
Chris Adams/Terry Taylor	2-7-87	Fort Worth, TX (1)
Rick Steiner/Sting	4-12-87	Atlanta, GA
Tim Horner/Brad Armstrong	5-17-87	Tulsa, OK
Butch Miller/Luke Williams	10-16-87	Kansas City, MO

(1) Adams and Taylor won a tournament when the title was vacated after Hacksaw Duggan lost a loser leave town match and headed to the WWF.

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA

SOUTHERN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Lex Luger	7-29-86	Tampa, FL
Kevin Sullivan	1-16-87	Daytona Beach, FL
Allen Coage	????????	????????
Kevin Sullivan	2-18-87	Fort Lauderdale, FL

This title is now defunct having been forgotten about in mid March.

FLORIDA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Ron Simmons	12-2-86	Tampa, FL
Allen Coage	1-20-87	Tampa, FL
Oliver Humperdink	2-24-87	Tampa, FL
Mike Rotunda	4-18-87	Lakeland, FL (1)

(1) the April 18 match was a match between Humperdink and Rotunda for the title which had been held up as a result of a previous match between the two.

FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Chris Champion/Sean Royal	12-25-86	Tampa, FL
Tracy Smothers/Scott Armstrong	3-15-87	Daytona Beach, FL
M. O. D. Squad	4-17-87	Daytona Beach, FL
Steve Keirn/Mike Graham	5-17-87	Daytona Beach, FL
Luke Williams/Butch Miller	6-23-87	Tampa, FL
Steve Keirn/Mike Graham	8-29-87	St Petersburg, FL
Mighty Yankees	9-8-87	Tampa, FL
Steve Keirn/Mike Graham	10-17-87	lakeland, FL (1)

(1) this match never took place and this title has been forgotten about.

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM MEMPHIS

AWA SOUTHERN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Jerry Lawler	9-8-86	Memphis, TN
Austin Idol	2-3-87	memphis, TN (1)
Jery Lawler	4-20-87	Memphis, TN
Austin Idol	4-27-87	Memphis, TN
Jerry Lawler	6-8-87	memphis, TN
Brickhouse Brown	7-6-87	Memphis, TN
Jerry Lawler	7-13-87	Memphis. TN
Don Bass	8-3-87	memphis, TN (2)
Don Bass	8-24-87	memphis, TN (3)
Jerry Lawler	8-31-87	Memphis, TN
Bobby Jaggers	10-19-87	Memphis, TN (4)
Jerry Lawler	11-21-87	Memphis, TN

(1) Idol won a tournament, final over Soul Train Jones, after Jerry Lawler vacated the title after being injured.
(2) Bass won a fall over Lawler in a tag team match to win the title. the win was later nullified and the title held up.
(3) Bass won the match against Lawler to decide the championship.
(4) Jaggers won the belt in a tournament final over Billy Travis when lawler vacated the belt again, this time due to winning the AWA tag team belts with Bill Dundee.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Big Bubba	10-6-86	Memphis (1)
Soul Train Jones	1-15-87	Memphis
Chick Donovan	4-20-87	Memphis
Bill Dundee	6-13-87	Memphis
George Barnes	8-25-87	Memphis
Bill Dundee	9-2-87	Memphis
Billy Travis	10-27-87	Memphis (2)
Manny fernandez	11-2-87	Memphis
Jerry Lawler	12-7-87	Memphis (3)

(1) defeated Pat tanaka in an elimination match.
(2) won tournament after Dundee vacated the belt due to winning the AWA tag team titles with Jerry Lawler.
(3) Title unified during one night tournament over Jeff Jarrett and Manny Fernandez.

MID AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Moondog Spot	?????	???? (1)
Jeff Jarrett	5-11-87	Memphis
Moondog Spot	5-23-87	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	6-1-87	Memphis
Moondog Spot	6-8-87	Memphis
Jeff jarrett	6-22-87	Memphis
Carl Fergie	9-7-87	memphis
Jeff Jarrett	9-14-87	Memphis
Jimmyjackjessebarr Funk	11-2-87	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	11-9-87	Memphis
Jerry Lawler	12-7-87	Memphis (2)

(1) This title had been sitting on a shelf in Jarrett Promotion's closet until mid may when Spot arrived on the scene and they remembered it and gave it to him.
(2) Title unified during one night tournament over Jeff Jarrett and Manny Fernandez

AWA SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Title declared vacant	12-28-86	Memphis (1)
Jeff Jarrett/Billy Travis	1-11-87	memphis
Mike Davis/Tommy Lane	1-20-87	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett/Billy Travis	1-26-87	memphis
Big Bubba/Goliath	2-23-87	Memphis
Rocky Johnson/Soul Train Jones	4-13-87	Memphis
Jack Hart/Chick Donovan	5-4-87	Memphis
Billy Travis/Mark Starr	6-8-87	Memphis (2)
the Clones	7-6-87	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett/Billy Travis	7-19-87	Memphis (3)
Pat Tanaka/Paul Diamond	8-2-87	Jackson, TN
Brian Knobs/Jerry Sags	9-12-87	Memphis
Mike Davis/Tommy Lane	9-19-87	Memphis
Marty Jannetty/Shawn Michaels	10-26-87	Memphis
Tommy lane/Mike Davis	11-16-87	Memphis
Marty Jannetty/Shawn Michaels	11-22-87	Memphis

(1) title declared vacant after a controversial match between the RPM's and Travis and Jarrett.
(2) tournament final over Phil Hickerson and Mr. Shima after Chick donovan left the area.
(3) tournament final over Tanaka and Diamond after one of the Clones was injured.

CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Rip Rogers	11-3-86	Birmingham
Adrian Street	1-5-87	Birmingham
Dutch Mantell	4-13-87	Birmingham

CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Kevin Sullivan	12-15-86	Birmingham
Tennessee Stud	2-4-87	Houston (1)
Buddy Landell	2-28-87	Chattanooga, TN
Wendell Cooley	4-27-87	Birmingham
Dutch Mantell	10-30-87	Knoxville, TN (2)
Danny Davis	11-23-87	Montgomery, AL

(1) This match did not take place as Sullivan left the area and Continental does not promote in Houston.
(2) Cooley gave up the title and was defeated by Mantell in the tournament final.

SOUTHEASTERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Nightmares	12-25-86	Birmingham
Jerry Stubbs/Tony Anthony	2-23-87	Birmingham
Fuller/Golden	5-25-87	Birmingham

SOUTHEAST U. S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Tom Pritchard	11-10-86	Birmingham
Larry Hamilton	1-9-87	Birmingham
Tom Pritchard	2-27-87	Knoxville, TN
Scott Armstrong	5-25-87	Birmingham
Larry Hamilton	9-7-87	Birmningham

TENNESSEE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Doug Furnas won this new title on 7-17-87 by defeating Tony Anthony in a tournament final.

WORLD WRESTLING COUNCIL
(PUERTO RICO)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Carlos Colon	9-21-86	San Juan, PR (1)
Hercules Ayala	7-18-87	San Juan, PR (2)
Carlos Colon	9-20-87	Ponce, PR

(1) Colon defeated Terry Funk in a tournament final.
(2) match stopped on a count of blood.

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Miguel Perez Jr.	1-21-87	San Juan, PR (1)
TNT	5-16-87	Bayamon, PR

(1) tournament final over Bob Heffernan. Title had been vacant since 11-9-86.

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Ron/Chicky Starr	10-5-86	Caguas, PR
Chris/Mark Youngblood	1-6-87	San Juan, PR
Luke Williams/Butch Miller	4-4-87	Caguas, PR
Chris/Mark Youngblood	5-10-87	San Juan, PR
TNT/Mr. Pogo	7-11-87	Caguas, PR
Chris/Mark Youngblood	7-28-87	San Juan, pR
the Hunters	8-25-87	Trinidad, West Indies
Chris/Mark Youngblood	9-20-87	Ponce, PR
Mr. Pogo/Kendo Nagasaki	10-17-87	Caguas, PR

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Perez/Castillo	11-9-87	San Juan, PR
Heffernan/Mendoza	1-6-87	San juan Pr (1)
M. Perez Jr./Atlas	4-25-87	Caguas, PR
the Hunters	6-20-87	San Juan,PR

(1) Tournament final over M Perez Jr & Big Red Reese.
THIS TITLE IS NOW DEFUNCT.

WWC CARRIBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Samoans # 3 & 4 won a tournament final over the Invaders on 11-7-87 in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico to become the first titleholders.

WWC JUNIOR CHAMPION

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Invader III	11-3-86	San Juan, PR
Frankie Lancaster	3-14-87	Guaynabo, PR
Invader III	5-3-87	Aquadilla, PR
El Gran Mendoza	7-18-87	San Juan, PR
Hurricane Castillo	9-20-87	Bayamon, PR
El Gran Mendoza	10-7-87	Catanao, PR

PUERTO RICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Invader I	6-9-86	San Juan, PR
Mighty Igor	1-9-87	San Juan, PR (1)
Kareem Muhhamed	6-6-87	Guaynado, PR

(1) Tournament final over Miguel Perez Jr.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Rip Oliver	12-4-86	Portland, OR
Ricky Santana	3-21-87	Portland
Rip Oliver	4-18-87	Portland
Mike Miller	6-27-87	Portland
the Grappler	10-31-87	Portland

NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Mike Miller/Abuddah Dein	11-10-86	Longview, WA
Cocoa Samoa/Rick Santana	1-7-87	Portland, OR
Rip Oliver/Mike miller	3-6-87	Portland
Coco Samoa/Mike Miller	5-23-87	Portland, OR (1)
Rip Oliver/Shunji Takano	7-25-87	Portland, OR
Joey Jackson/Shunji Takano	9-18-87	Portland, OR (2)
Scott Peterson/Steve Dahl	11-7-87	Portland, OR

(1) Art Crews took Mike Miller's place defending the title
(2) Joey Jackson replaced Rip Oliver when Oliver was thought to be shading for the WWF

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

AMERICAN/WORLD CLASS "WORLD" HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Kevin Von Erich	10-12-86	Dallas, TX
Al Perez	10-26-87	(1)

(1) Kevin Von Erich declared unable to defend the title, thus, it was awarded to Perez

TEXAS HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Bob Bradley	1-12-87	Fort Worth, TX (1)
Dingo Warrior	2-2-87	Dallas, TX (2)
Al Perez	6-21-87	Caguas, Puerto Rico (3)
Ted Arcidi	8-31-87	Fort Worth, TX (4)

(1) Tournament final over Dingo Warrior. Title had been vacant since 11-15-86 when Buzz Sawyer left the area.
(2) Dingo Warrior was stripped of the title when he left for the WWF, but the title was given back to him upon his return on 5-25.
(3) Don't you believe it. Dingo went back to the WWF.
(4) Battle Royal victory.

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Brian Adias/Al Madril	12-1-86	Fort Worth, TX
Tommy Rogers/Bobby Fulton	3-4-87	Lubbock, TX (1)
Eric Embry/Frankie Lancaster	6-26-87	Dallas, TX
Steve & Shawn Simpson	8-7-87	Fort Worth, TX
Brian Adias/Frankie Lancaster	10-12-87	Fort Worth, TX

(1) Fantastics were stripped of titles on 4-6 in Ft. worth with RPM's but regained titles on 5-4.
(2) Skip "Sweet Brown Sugar" Brown subbed for an injured Steve Simpson.

ALL JAPAN PRO WRESTLING

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Riki Choshu	4-5-86	Yokohama
Stan hansen	4-24-87	Yokohama (1)

(1) Hansen defeated Hiroshi Wajima in the tournament final after Choshu jumped to New Japan.

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Hansen/DiBiase	entered 86 as champions as mandated by All Japan Pro Wrestling	
Tenyru/A. Hara	9-3-87	Nagoya (1)

(1) Austin Idol substituted for Ted DiBiase.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Stan Hansen	7-31-86	Tokyo
Jumbo Tsurta	10-21-87	Tokyo

INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Choshu/Yatsu	2-5-86	Osaka
Tsruta/Tenyru	2-5-87	Tokyo
Road Warriors	3-12-87	Sapparo

INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Kuniaki Kobayashi	11-25-86	Sanjo
Massa Fuchi	1-3-87	Tokyo

JUMBO TSRUTA AND YOSHIAKI YATSU WON THE ANNUAL TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT IN DECEMBER OF 1987.

NEW JAPAN PRO WRESTLING

GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIP

Antonio Inoki defeated Dick Murdoch on June 19th to win this year's tournament and retain the title he originally won on 6-14-84. 1987 was the last year for this tournament to be held.

GRAND PRIX TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Fujinami/Kimura	9-23-86	Tokyo
Koshinaka/Mutoh	3-20-87	Tokyo
Maeda/Takada	3-26-87	Osaka
Fujiwara/Yamazaki	9-7-87	Fukuoka

GRAND PRIX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Shiro Koshinaka	9-19-86	Fukuoka
Kuniaki Kobayashi	8-20-87	Tokyo (1)
Title held up	12-87	

(1) Tournament final over Nobuhiko Takada

KENGO KIMURA AND TATSUMI FUJINAMI WON THE ANNUAL TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT IN DECEMBER OF 1987

CENTRAL STATES WRESTLING

CENTRAL STATES HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Sam Houston	11-16-86	St Louis (1)
Bill Dundee	1-3-87	Topeka, KS
Bob Brown	2-27-87	Kansas City, MO
Rufus R Jones	5-21-87	Kansas City, MO
Pork Chop Cash	7-10-87	St. Joseph, MO
Rufus R Jones	7-17-87	Kansas City, MO
Earthquake Ferris	9-27-87	Des Moines, IA
Bob Brown	10-25-87	St Joseph, MO

(1) tournament final over Bill Dundee

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Dave Peterson/Todd Champion	11-7-86	Kansas City, mO
M. O. D. Squad	1-3-87	Topeka, KS
Brad Batten/Ric McCord	2-27-87	Kansas City, MO
Ken Timbs/Porkchop Cash	4-10-87	Kansas City, MO
Warlord/Karl kovak	6-8-87	Witchta, KS (1)
Brad & Bart Batten	8-6-87	Kansas City, MO (2)
Ric McCord/Porkchop Cash	11-9-87	Versailles, MO (3)
Mike Stone/Rick Patterson	11-26-87	Kansas City, MO

(1) tournament final when Ken Timbs left the are and vacated the titles.
(2) Brad defeated Bobby Jaggers in a singles match to win the titles for his team.
(3) Imaginary match that "took place" after the Battens had left the territory.

STAMPEDE WRESTLING FROM CALGARY

NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Makhan Singh	????????	?????
Owen Hart	1-19-87	medicine Hat, AB
Makhan Singh	1-30-87	Calgary, AB
Owen Hart	4-30-87	Calgary, AB

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WRESTLER	DATE WON	SITE
Owen hart	10-25-86	Edmonton, AB
Gama Singh	8-7-87	Calgary, AB

INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM	DATE WON	SITE
Viet Cong Express	???????	Calgary, AB
Bruce Hart/Brian Pillman	4-5-87	Calgary AB (1)
Makhan Singh/Jerry Morrow	11-11-87	Great Falls, MT
Bruce Hart/Brian Pillman	11-[illegible]3-87	Calgary, AB

(1) tournament final over Cuban Assassin and Mark Starr

JEOPARDY!

by Sean Grande & Jon Gallagher

This part of the Wrestling Forum Yearbook is the quiz section; how much do you really know about what happened during the year. We're doing it Jeopardy! style where we give you the answers and you have to come up with the questions. One bit of warning...Double Jeopard! is a little trickier...

Answers, er ah, questions...whatever...can be found on page 4-29

ARENAS	IDENTITIES	CITIES	MATCHES	POTPOURI	PAIRS OF WRESTLERS
Doc beats Bubba here for UWF title.	Koko B Ware's opponent in Pile-driver video.	WWF-JCP had shows here on same day, 1-10-87...drew 25,000 combined.	Inoki beat him in Sumo Hall to capture 5th straight Grand Prix champ.	Airline that Jim Neidhart was arrested on.	1st Mid South Coliseum card had these two vets in 60 minute draw
Verne's only show here, Rockers win tag titles.	He was the original Smash in Demolition.	2-27-87, Dusty beat Bubba for Stampede Championship	Man Barry Windham defeated for Western States H. Title	Football team that John Ayers played for before being cut	wrestlers who were credited for running Luger from FLA.
Piper does job for Adonis here with Andre as guest ref.	Was scheduled to be original Vladimir Petrov but backed out.	Street in Ptsbg that Downtown Bruno has made famous	3rd annual King of the Ring winner.	Chicky Starr's Piper's Pit type segment in WWC is called this	Chris Adams' two partners before Taylor in tag tourney
Site of 1987 STARRCADE	UWF's terminator is his brother	site of Midnight Rockers loss to Zhukov/Ustinov	Opening match of Wrestlemania III	Only wrestler to receive a "Q rating" during 1987	real names of the Shadows
Site of 1987 Survivor's Series	Blackjack Mulligan kidnapped him in Florida	Of Birmingham, Memphis St. Paul, and Kansas City, city AWA title NOT defended in during 1987	The four participants in the Battle of New Orleans	Number of matches in Starrcade and Survivor Series combined	2nd place finishers in 1987 Crockett Cup

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

The questions get harder...or sillier!

NUMBERS	QUOTABLE WUOTES	TEAMS	BIG EVENTS	TV	POTPOURI
1	"Dusty Rhodes is a living legend in wrestling."	they became a team on 10-31	Unexpected winner of 1987 Survivor Series	PBS	slick paper
93,000	"Rock 'n Roll, Brother."	Ollie North's favorite tag team	Winner of the Battle of Thanksgiving	PWTW is taped from here	Known sometimes as the Pink Angel
93,176	"Take this job and shove it!"	Best announcing pair in wrestling	Vince's best booker/ wrestler	Whenever there's nothing else on	Nord hails from here
2:47	"We've got the best wrestling in the world right here!"	McGraw & Valiant	favored by smart fans to win crockett Cup in 1987	Was the best dressed at the Slammies	Dr. D David Schults
a roll of dimes	"Back in 2:02" and I have no idea why.	Marc Lowrance, John Nord, and DJ peterson	the late mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and Bill Apter	They cancelled Hulk Hogan's Rock n Wrestling connection cartoon show.	Japanese Women

COMPETING WITH THE REST

The whole concept of this article came as the result of a simple question I put to Eddie Sharkey recently. I asked how he as a promoter, competed with Titan. He answered, "We can't. But, we can compete with people like Gange."

His honest answer struck a chord. Titan began 1987 as the number one promotion. Through the use of its television market, including NBC, and promotional maneuvering, they pulled to even a larger lead over number two Jim Crockett Promotions. Crockett, on the other hand, bungled several chances to pull within a respectable distance of Titan, and although remaining number two, slipped backwards closing the gap between themselves and number four Memphis (the UWF had been number three at the beginning of the year but we all know what happened there.) Crockett's second place position is still maintained with a comfortable margin, however, it is the number two spot that seems to be the target of everyone rather than Titan's number 1 slot.

The following then, are my ideas, individually tailored to each promotion to get them into a number two spot:

MEMPHIS

With all the strengths of Jarrett Promotions, this group would require the least amount of change. Working for the most part, independently of any other promotion, save the experiments of borrowing talent from the AWA, they have a luxury that few others have, namely constant talent flow. In all but a few cases this past year, wrestlers have moved on before they became stale. This is good on a regional basis, however, on a national scale, talent must remain with a promotion for a longer period of time in order toget over. The only thing that needs change in this department is time factors. Instead of rushing an angle to get their heels over, they could take their time in developing feuds.

Other factors that contribute to this groups support from hardcore fans include the ultimate use of TV, and the ability to recognize what is and is not going over.

The TV show, done live in Memphis on Saturday mornings, is their best tool. They are generous with main event type matches and have a corps of jobbers that are at least, believable. Announcers Lance Russell and Dave Brown form what is possibly the most knowledgeable duo in the sport. The TV show has to be effective on a weekly basis as it is the catalyst for weekly live shows in Memphis.

The book is handled usually by Jerry Lawler. He is quick to try new and different angles, and is just as quick to pull the plug on any that aren't working or that are not getting the reaction they had hoped for.

Most agree that the reason Championship Wrestling from Memphis is so successful is that they know how to promote in their area; how to cater to the people in Tennessee. Because of this, their promotional tactics might not work on a national basis. I agree. But expanding their base operation to include more territory and more cities. Expansion into barren areas such as Southern and Central Indiana, Southern Illinois and Southeastern Missouri could boast the promotion into a national spotlight. By adding more territory, they add potential live gates. By cutting their weekly schedule in certain cities down to a twice per month appearance, they might make people in those cities more anxious to see their product rather than fans taking for granted that the promotion will be their weekly.

Another suggestion would be that they cut back on some of their famous gimmick matches. Gimmicks wear thin after a very short time. Their place could be taken by the wild brawls that Memphis wrestling is also famous for.

Strategis promoting on college campuses could develop a long standing cult following.

The only other suggestion that I could make here would be for the development of a third lead babyface. With Jerry Lawler and Jeff Jarrett being lifetime standbys in the two lead face roles, a third is needed. This position could be alternated between wrestlers with a push given the third face on a 13-16 week period.

All in all, Memphis is just a few short steps away from becoming the number two promotion.

AWA

About the only thing the AWA has going for it is past performance. Had they not been a powerhouse in the wrestling world from the sixites into the eighties, I doubt if anyone would even consider them a major promotion. This group will take the most work.

The first thing that need to be done is for them to revamp the promotion entirely. This includes the TV show. Instead of using the Showboat in Las Vegas for TV tapings (so they can look glamorous), they need to either go back into the TV studios as they did up until recent years, or tape from small arenas. Since the studio or TV audience is important to the workrate as well as home viewer acceptance, size is no nearly as important as the fans being into the taping itself.

Ron Trongard has to be let go as the play by play man. Larry Nelson has improved on interviews to the point that he could keep his job. Either a new announcer would have to be developed, or one hired from somewhere else.

Verne would have to draw boundary lines for his promotion. He would need to sit down and take a look at the ratings numbers and decide just exactly where his TV audience is at. From here he needs to target the TV show to those people in those cities. This would be the easiest step. By upgrading the show and catering to hot cities, the live gates would pick up thereby allowing him to expand when he needed to. Cities that had very little interest should be dropped for the time being. With the desperate position they are in, those cities mean nothing anyway other than a tax write off. The trouble with tax write offs is that you have to have some income to write them off against. In the position they"re in, they must eliminate all liabilities.

Using their past reputation for them, they should then put egos aside and offer to work with other smaller promotions. They shouldn't limit themselves to just places like Memphis, Continental, or portland, but expand to include any independent who would be willing to have a real "world"s champion" on their live cards. By exchanging talent, things could be kept fresh and at the same time have someone to call on should they need help in countering a Titan show (or for that matter, any competitor's show). By using these independents, they could also develop somewhat of a farm system for future use.

Even with these steps, it may be too late for the AWA. They may have alienated too many fans with their constant no shows and lousy TV. But unless some of these steps are implemented, either 1988 will be the last year for the AWA's existence or they will lose so much money they won't be able to travel outside the Twin Cities area.

WORLD CLASS

Since Ken mantell bought into the promotion, several changes have been made and all in the right direction. Should he continue at the same pace, he should be within shouting distance of the number two spot by year's end.

Mantell seems content to run old angles with some new twists. If it works, I see nothing wrong with that. His logic is that if it drew fans the first time around, it ought to draw fans this time as well. As long as he can get by with that philosophy, he should run

run with it. But I should also caution that he should also have a backup plan for when this one fails; it's not that the original plan isn't good, it's just that nothing can last forever and he should be prepared for when that time comes.

The major push of the promotion has been taken off the Von Erich family an d put on to others. Again, this is a step in the right direction as fans in Texas are growing tired of seeing the Von Erichs being he center of attention. The fans, even the dumbest marks, realize that Fritz has been in charge and that nothing is going to happen to his boys. Influx of new babyfaces should continue to help the promotion and perhaps one of the contingency plans should include a Von Erich turn. The shock value alone might sell a few hundred tickets.

The production values of the tV show are second only to Titan and in some cases surpass theirs. The announcer, however, remain a major liability. Their tone and repetitious, inane babble turns off the smart fans as well as some of the marks. Announcer who can make the action seem exciting need to be used.

With the excellent tV that they have, they should have no problem in using the von Erich name to get TV time throughout the state of Texas. Perhaps the best suggestion that could be made here is for them to basically expand into the old mid South/UWF territory. An alliance with Bill watts would help tremendously in this regard if nothing more than to put him on the payroll as a front man and keep him behind the scenes. The uWF territory is ripe for th picking as most cities have not seen wrestling live since Watts sold out. With the number of wrestler tha they have managed to salvage from the Crockett disaster, they could almost start right from where they left off.

If Mantell could manage to get the financial backing that Fritz got right before he left, the promotin could go far. The talent is there and so is the creativity. The market is there as well, as long as Mr. Mantell can learn where to look.

NWA

The NWA should continue to rest in the number two slot this year, but it continues to slide backwards. It's not in danger of losing that spot yet, but the gap between them and Titan continues to widen at an alarming pace.

The NWA has several positive points going for it. No other group other than the WWF has as many name wrestlers under contract. Their outlet on WTBS is possibly the most valuable asset of any wrestling promotion and their network for the syndicated show has been carefully assemble to give them a network second only to Titan. The announcing team of Bob Caudill, Jim Ross and Tony Shivone are the finest assembled and they work well tcgether. The fact that Ross can make even a dull match seem exciting without it seeming to be nothing but hype is another much overlooked asset. And the support of hardcore fans is yet another area overlooked by the promotion itself.

The areas where improvement could be used include the booking. This is somewhat of a belabored point as many have called for the removal of Dusty Rhodes as the booker. His constant push of only those who are willing to kiss his behind is a detriment. His ego is so large that it is often placed before making money. When Jim Crockett finally realizes this, it may be too late. Pushing only those in Dusty's clique will eventually be the downfall of the promotion.

Fresh angles need to be implemented whether it be from a new booker or Jim Crockett personally approving Dusty"s each and every move as booker. Lessons could be learned from studying promotions like Memphis where they seem to realize when an angle isn't going over and they abandon

it without a second thought. Here, Crockett, though, he spends a whole lot of money getting an angle or wrestler over, and they continue to poor good money after bad if the idea isn't accepted in an attempt to get it over.

The next suggestion may be the hardest to take. They need to stop trying to be a national promotin and accept being number two. This doesn't mean abandoning the extensive TV network they have set up; it means stop touring places like the west coast, the northeast, etc. and concentrate on the south. By doing this, yet continuing to improve the TV show they will make people more anxious to see their product live. The cancellation of national tours would be only temporary. Just long enough (perhaps six months to a year) to whet the appetites of those areas where they had been promoting.

While the moratorium on live shows nationwide is on, major events such as the Crockett Cup and Starrcade should be pushed nationwide. Bringing in fans from other cities will only help when they do return to those area.

The market they decide to work should be worked as hard as they could. Taking a page from the Bill Watts book on promoting they should hold nothing back at live shows. Reputation of this sort should spread rapidly.

A crop of rookies should be developed whether from a private training school or from independents. Fresh faces should help and allowing them to work with veterans like Blanchard, Anderson, or the Fantastics will help them develop that much more quickly. Rookie wrestlers who prove to have a hungry streak are the most desirable here.

Loyalty to the promotion must somehow be developed. A compassionate booker would be a beginning, but that may be asking too much. Perhaps some sort of benefit package that would make wrestlers want to work here would help. Whether the benefit include a credit union, a retirement plan or some sort of group insurance plan, anything that would make them better than the WWF would create the loyalty that other promotions lack. This might help to stop some of the defections to places like Titan.

And finally, instead of Dusty complaining about criticism of newsletters, he should start using them to his advantage. Maybe our suggestions won't always work, however, Titan has used the Observer for a long time in keeping track of the competition. They no longer see the newsletters as a threat but as a helpful inside view of their competitors. the NWA could use the same tactics in dealing with the competition if they only would. Knowing what is happening is half the battle.

After the changes I have mentioned are used, Crockett can then use the regional support that he has to build once again to national prominence. The basic business premise of supply and demand should be followed here, and by doing so, the nWA could once again be in a position of challenging Titan for the number one spot as early as 1990. If they elect not to make some changes, they"ll be chasing titan until Titan decides to get out of the wrestling business.

1987...THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The following is a quick review of the year 1987 in professional wrestling. We've taken the top story from each month and given just a little background on it. This section will take a look at wrestling as a whole. Later on you will find the top stories and feuds for each promotion on a month by month basis.

We hope that this capsule report will give you a good summary of the top stories in 1987.

JANUARY

Jim Neidhart was arrested on January 14 following an incident on board a commercial flight. Neidhart was charged with striking a flight attendant after she refused to serve him two beers. The incident happened on a USAir 737 flying between Tampa and Pittsburgh. Neidhart was required to post a $10,000 unsecured bond after he was taken into custody following the Pittsburgh landing. He was later acquitted of all charges in the incident but he had faced a $10,000 fine and up to twenty years in prison in connection with the charge. In an interesting note, he wrestled in Pittsburgh on 1-16 after the story had broken in all the local papers. He was greeted with chants of "Jail Bird!" from those in attendance. Referee Danny Davis reportedly had some trouble standing up because he was laughing so hard, however, Mr. Neidhard failed o see the humor in the situation.

FEBRUARY

In the fall of 1986, Jim Crockett Promotions bought out the Central States Wrestling Promotion and began to use the promotion as sort of a farm league for some of his inexperienced wrestlers. This month, he decided to pull out of the area, taking most of his talent with him after almost single handedly destroying the promotion. This was the first of many failures in the promotion buying business that Crockett got into during 1987. This particular case was blamed on the fact that the Kansas City office ran weekly shows, something that Crockett wasn't used to handling. Ticket prices were raised and the long standing Thursday night shows at Memorial Hall were moved to a foreign Friday night. Attendance had been down, taking a plunge from the time the shows were moved. Several attempts at bringing in some of his name stars even failed to produce better crowds, so Jim Crockett decided to chalk this one up to experience and remember his mistakes in case he ever bought another promotion. Unfortunately, Mr. Crockett must have a very short memory. Rumores were abound that he was moving the base of this promotion to Nashville or Memphis, but those rumors proved to be just that. The Central States area was forgotten about save a couple of attempts to promote his own nWA there. The area reverted control to Bob Geigel.

MARCH

Vince McMahon had to hire a fleet of semi-trailers to cart off the money he made at this year's Wrestlemania III which took place on March 29, 1987. After a dismal Wrestlemania II, McMahon abandoned the idea of the spectacular eminate from three separate sites and elected to go with just one huge facility. He chose the Silverdome in Pontiac Michigan in suburban Detroit. Many thought that he would have trouble filling the place, but on the day of the show, a reported 93,176 people,

packed the place to watch undefeated Andre the Giant try to win the WWF heavyweight championship from Hulk hogan. While the match itself was anything but good (it included a bearhug that lasted almost three minutes) the fans got to see what they came for...Hulk pinned Andre in the center of the ring clean as a hospital bedsheet.

Also, least we forget, the card also saw Wrestling Forum's match of the Year with Ricky the Dragon Steamboat winning the Intercontinental Championship from the Macho Man Randy Savage.

The event was the most successful of any wrestling promotion ever held with estimated receipts, including live attendance, pay-per-view, and closed circuit locations totaled just over 17 MILLION dollars.

APRIL

In perhaps the saddest news of the year, we learned that on April 12, 1987, Mike Von Erich chose to take his own life. Mike had been despondent for a long time, beginning with a bout he had with toxic shock syndrome. His trials and tribulations continued with the breaking of a story that had been suppressed by his family for some time involving a suit by a local emergency room doctor who had charged mike with assault and battery stemming from an incident on May 30, 1985. He had been cleared of all charges and it looked as though his life was back on track. However, on April 11, mike was picked up for driving under the influence and possession of a controled substance. He was released on bond and he drove to a spot near Lewisville Lake in Denton County Texas where he overdosed himself with prescription pain relievers, he hiked to a secluded spot, laid down in his sleeping bad and went to sleep forever. His family reported him missing and on the morning of April 16, his body was found along with a note to his mother saying that he was in a better place now and that he'd be watching.

Eulogies followed, most citing the fact that he never really wanted to be a wrestler but he had more or less been forced into the family business. His death came as a shock to the entire wrestling world. The phone call that I received from Ron Lemeiux that morning is one of those that will stay with me the rest of my life.

MAY

Two stories made major headlines this month as it was announced that Jim Crockett Promotins had purchased the UWF from Bill Watts (we knew of it during April but the official announcement and takeover happened as of April 1), and Jim Duggan and the Iron Sheik were arrested together on a New Jersey freeway for possession of drugs and drinking while driving.

The purchase of the UWF was one that fans were reluctant to accept. The original announcement was that the UWf would be run independently of the NWA and for a while, that was true. Dusty Rhodes made his booking presence known immediately as he sent in Tim Horner and Brad Armstrong to take the tag team titles and Big Bubba Rogers was sent in to gain the UWF title. The promotin was run basically the same for a few months until egoes got in the way and Jim Crockett decided to prove the NWA's "superiority" over the upstart group by systematically destroying the entire promotin. Later, NWA officials were to reason that the uWF was bought only for its extensive television network and so that the nWA could eventually move its offices from small town Charlotte to metropolitan Dallas. Fans across the country were furious to learn that Crockett had purposely destroyed what had been voted promotion of the year in 1986.

In the other big story in May, Jim Duggan and the Iron Sheik were stopped on a New Jersy freeway when a state trooper had spotted Duggan drinking a beer while driving. Upon further inspection of the car, the officer noticed the smell of marijuana and several smoked joints in the ashtray of the car. A shaving kit belonging to the Iron Sheik was found to have a small amount of cocaine in it.

The two wrestlers, who at the time were both employed by Titan Sports, were involved in a bitter feud with each other in the ring. Reportedly, they had not planned on riding to the matches together that night, however Sheik's original ride had left him at the airport and Duggan volunteered to drive him to the arena. They were both released on bond, however, when they got to the next arena where they were scheduled, Vince McMahon met them personally and fired both of them. Duggan was to return to the WWF in September, but the Iron Sheik had not been hired back as of January.

The story made the second page of the New York Times and proved to be a major embarrassment to the WWF. Reportedly, Titan lost a major deal with a candy manufacturer due to the drug charges.

JUNE

Several titles changed hands this month including the NWA tag team Titles in a match that took place several months earlier, however the top story for this month forms a three way tie.

Terry taylor was the victim of a long line of auto accidents involving professional wrestlers. he was a passenger in a car driven by Eddie Gilbert when it was hit by another driver who ran a red light. Eddie and Missy Hyatt sustained minor injuries, but Taylor suffered abdominal injuries requiring surgery to remove part of his intestines. Terry was back at work in a matter of six weeks.

Kevin Von Erich became the latest in the long line of Von Erich tragedies when he collapsed in the ring during a six man tag match. CPR was used to revive Kevin and the cause of his collapse was explained to fans as being a result of a "phantom punch" thrown by Brian Adias which became known as the oriental tool. The real reason for Kevin's collapse is known within the business and we'll suffice here to say that what caused it is probably illegal in all fifty states.

Jim Crockett was in a shopping mood again as he purchased the Florida promotion from Hiro Matsuda. Speculation was that he would use the promotion for another farm system, but after a while it was evident that he was bringing all his NWA stars in for shows. Again, it took only a short time for attendance to drop here as it did in the Central States area and ultimately, Crockett pulled out of Florida as well.

JULY

The top story in wrestling for July came once again from the World Class area, but it waited until the end of the month to surface. Surprisingly, this had nothing to do with the Von Erich family.

Bruiser Brody was continuing his long standing feud with Abdullah the Butcher when on July 27 during a cage match, Brody took a three count. It was the first job Brody had done in over seven years. Many thought return matches would be on their way and we'd see Abby also doing a job, bu the feud for the most part died there, at least in the World Class area. Brody took the pin after Abby hit him in the throat with a foreign object as Gary Hart distracted the referee. Brody left the area shortly thereafter.

AUGUST

In what could have been the biggest story of the year, the Road Warriors nixed an offer from titan and decided to stay with Jim Crockett Promotions. The Warriors, who were absent from most of the WTBS tapings this month, met with McMahon in his Greenwich, CT office and were very close to signing. toward the end of the month, the signed an exclusive deal with Jim Vrockett Promotions for an undisclosed amount and a reported period of about five years. The actual Crockett signing didn't take place in August, but at least they turned down the McMahon offer during this month. Several reason were speculated on for the refusal including the Warriors losing creative control over their image and having to give up lucrative Japan tours.

SEPTEMBER

Ron Garvin captured the NWA heavyweight title from Ric Flair In Detroit on September 25. Looking back on the weeks preceding the title change, it really didn't look much different from any of the other pushes that challengers to Ric's crown had gotten. The showed a video of Garvin doing road work, swimming, and working out and finished the video with a subtitle: Ron Garvin; Glory bound for the NWA championship. What shocked most fans is the fact that Ron won the match with a simple sunset flip off the top turnbuckle. Garvin put the title on a shelf almost immediately and did not defend the title up until a rematch with Flair at November's Starrcade show. Matches leading up to the title change became some of the most famous slap fests in wrestling history with the two exchanging some vicious tight slaps that resulted in some broken blood vessels in Flair's chest. Fans didn't take to Garvin like the promotion thought they would. The reason Garvin was chosen as temporary champion is still a mystery to most fans as he never gained the amount of respect most "world" champions do.

OCTOBER

Titan Sports found themselves extremely busy this month as they undertook two major projects. The first was to complete a turn of Randy Savage from heel to babyface that they had been planting the seeds for for several weeks and also the release of their second record album, "Piledriver".

Savage was officially turned during a Saturday night's Main Event broadcast when he took on the Honky tonk Man. After Jimmy Hart took a bump and was unable to continue, the hart Foundation came out to be in HTM's corner. Both Hart and Neidhart jumped in the ring to save HTM from being pinned and the three heels started to destroy Savage. Elizabeth jumped in front of HTM who was ready to clobber Randy with a guitar as the Foundation held him. Whe he pushed her down and out of the way, what resulted was perhaps the most sympathetic wave of emotion ever felt in the wrestling world. Hogan came to the ring to make the save, but the turn of Randy Savage was complete.

Meanwhile, the Piledriver album was released at the beginning of the month, and its impact among record buyers was anything but earth shaking. Critics hooted and howled at the content while the WWF (of course) built it up as being on an equal with some of Beethoven's greatest works. We assume Titan was doing this tongue in cheek.

NOVEMBER

November brought what was possibly the most interesting story to follow all year in the form of a human chess game. Bulletins dubbed it the "Battle of Thanksgiving'.¶

Crockett promotions for the past several years have held Starrcade on Thanksgiving night. This show is roughly equal to a Wrestlemania, at leas tin terms of importance to the promotion. Crockett looked as though he might be making some headway into attracting a national audience by booking the show on Pay Per View Television.

Then came the announcement from Titan that THEY would be producing a super spectacular event on Thanksgiving night to be known as the Survivor Series. That event would also run on Pay Per View.

Cable operators were about to be faced with a decision as to which show to run. They went to Crockett promotions with their dilemma and explained to them that the WWF show would draw a better audience, just from name recognition. This was the first of many bad decisions that Jim Crockett was about to make.

He decided to change the starting time of Starrcade to the afternoon. This would allow cable operators to broadcast both Pay Per View events and at the same time, not conflict with having to go head to head with the giant Titan machine.

Vince McMahon then took Crockett's queen with a bishop. The agreement that he took to the cable operators said in part that the operators would not be allowed to show another wrestling event on pay per view sixty day prior to or twenty one days following a Titan produced show on PPV. Some cable operators objected to this "loaded gun" but when McMahon sweetened the pot, so to speak, by making Wrestlemania IV part of a package deal, most operators agreed to show Titan's show exclusively.

This left Crockett with an afternoon show, no pay per view network to speak of, and a limited closed circuit network as well. To top that, Crockett moved Starrcade from its usual Greensboro locale to Chicago which offended fans in his home area. With so many plans already made, Crockett was forced to play out the game with what McMahon had dealt, which wasn't a very good hand at all.

The Survivor Series ended up grossing in the neighborhood of 4 million dollars (not bad at all for a show that they had not designed to succeed, rather one just to keep Crockett from getting his foot in the PPV door) while Starrcade took in about 1.3 million.

DECEMBER

Fritz Von Erich sold his interest in the Southwest Sports company (World Class) to former employee and current rival promoter Ken Mantell. Mantell had been the booker for Fritz during the hot years of the promotion before leaving for the UWF and ultimately starting his own Wild West Wrestling promotion.

Reportedly, Fritz had wanted out of the business for quite some time and following a disasterous Von Erich Over America tour, made the final decision. Negotiations lasted less than one day as Fritz made the offer to sell and Mantell met the asking price. Kevin and Kerry still hold a major part of the promotion, however Mantell appeared to have full control of the booking department as the Von Erichs have started to take somewhat of a back seat.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

Lex Luger arrived in the NWA and started telling everyone that he was there for one reason: he wanted to be a horseman. Barry Windham, who spent most of the month feuding with Flair, tried to warn him of consequences if he joined with the horsemen....Dusty Rhodes and Bubba Rogers ended up with the same number of bunkhouse stampede victories so it was announced that they would face each other in a cage next month in Pittsburgh....Crockett made his presence felt in the Central States area by sending in Bill Dundee to capture the Central States singles title and the MOD Squad to win the tag belts...Vladimir Petrov was brought in by Ivan Koloff to feud with Nikita...the Crockett Cup was announced for April 10 & 11 in baltimore.

FEBRUARY

Barry Windham and lex Luger began to feud after Barry kept interrupting Lex's interview time with advise on joining up with the horsemen.... Dick Murdoch turned heel on Dusty and Nikita...Dick's reasoning was that Dusty and he had been partners for such a long time and now Dusty was teaming with a Commie...in typical Crockett logic, Murdoch then began teaming with Ivan and Petrov...Scaffold matches between the Warriors and the Midnight Express came to a conclusion after running those matches in just about every city...Jimmy Garvin turned babyface and started to team with "brother" Ron after Jim Cornette hit Ron with a fireball... the Garvins then started an all out feud with the Express...Dusty won the Bunkhouse stampede finals...Ole Anderson turned babyface and began to feud with the four horsemen....Lex Luger replaces Ole in the foursome... Ric Flair started making hints that he would try to seduce Precious.

MARCH

Crockett Promotions purchased the Florida wrestling office and moved its own wrestlers into the area....They pulled completely out of the Central States area...Mike Rotunda defected from the WWF and started working here...Hector Guerrero returned after just a short time away, but under a mask...his gimmick was that of a space alien known as Lazertron...the Road Warriors returned from Japan with the International tag belts that they won over there...Murdoch started and ended a feud with Nikita by giving him a brain buster on the cement floor outside the ring...Nikita began wearing a neck brace over the next month or so while Murdoch was "suspended" so he could tour Japan...In the upset of the year, Randy and Bill Mulkie scored an upset pinfall win over a team "from the West Coast" called the Gladiators on WTBS...the studio crowd went wild as did fans around the country.

APRIL

Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff won the second annual Crockett Cup by defeating Tully Blanchard and Lex Luger in the final round...the tournament was held on the 10th and 11th in Baltimore...Crockett Promotions purchased the UWF effective the first of next month...Dennis Condrey left the Midnight Express and was replaced by former Fabulous One member, Stan Lane...Rick Morton was forced to miss the Cup with a legit eye injury... Ric Flair continued to court Precious, presenting her with a mink coat.... Precious resisted some of his advances but took the ccat while again turning Ric down flat...The New Breed, Sean Royal and Chris Champion were brought up fromt he Florida promotion and they began a short lived feud with the Rock and roll Express...the US tag championship was declared vacant due to murdoch's suspension and they announced a tournament would

be held on TV to determine the new champions.

MAY

The Midnight Expresss wont he US tag belts by defeating Barry Windham and Ron Garvin in a TV tournament....cornette continues to feud with the Garvins...Dusty began a feud with Tully that would last through the Great American Bash shows...the New Breed switched from insulting the R & R Express on interviews to insulting Jimmy Valiant and Lazertron... in fact, the Breed and Express only met one time to our knowledge...well, we said it was a short feud...the feud with Dusty and Tully was originally for Tully's TV title...Tully and JJ refused to put it up without money from Dusty...Dusty put up "$50,000" and a match was signed with Magnum TA at ringside to hold on to the money...JJ got the money away from Magnum and took off...Dusty pinned Tully and after the three count, Tully got his foot on the ropes...Tommy Young, the referee ordered the match restarted, but Dusty was busy chasing down JJ and the money...Young then counted the Dream out of the ring...it looked as though Tommy Young would be turning in to a heel referee, but fortunately, that never took place...Rick Rude walked out of the promotion and didn't even bother to drop his half of the tag titles...Crockett pulled out an old tape of the RR Express beating Fernandez and Rude in a non title match last winter and passed it off as a match "from last week"....the Freebirds were in on loan from the UWF.

JUNE

The New Breed were involved in a serious car accident that left both of them on the mend for most of the rest of the year...June was busy settin up angles for the Bash shows in July...they added fuel to the Garvins-Flair feud and even announced a match between Jim and Ric with Ric putting up the belt against Precious for a night.

JULY

This year's Great American Bash tour was a success. They didn't combine the wrestling with country and western music except once and they only combined with another musical act (Michael hayes) once. The tour played to sellout crowds in San Francisco, Landover, MD, Chicago, Philadelphia, Greensboro and Atlanta with good crowds in other cities as well...In what turned out to be one of the best concepts of the year, they debuted the War Games in Atlanta on July 4th...two rings were placed side by side and a cage constructed around and over the rings. Two teams consisting of five men were then let in the ring every two minutes one by one so that one team would have a one man advantage every four minutes...the end of the match was when one team quit or got pinned...the concept was successful enough that they ran the match four times total...two titles changed hands during the Bash shows...Lex Luger beat Nikita Koloff for the US title and in the UWF, Steve Williams beat Bubba Rogers for the UWF crown...Crockett began to exert more and more influence over both Florida and the UWF.

AUGUST

Dusty abandoned his feud with Tully without winning the TV title and took up a feud with lex Luger that would run through Thanksgiving... Al Blake, who had been brought in to play the part of Vladimir Petrov was convicted on drug charges and sentenced to a bunch of years in the Minnesota State pen. He won't be eligible for parole until 2002.... The Garvin Flair feud continued to heat up with Ric interfering in some of Ron's matches...Ricky Morton started a feud with Tully Blanchard over the TV title, which Tully had at the time and the Tag titles which the Rock and Roll Express held....Nikita ended up winning the TV title

before Morton got a shot at it so the feud centered with the R&R vs Tully and Arn...Dusty added a new weapon to his arsenal with a sleeper hold dubbed the Weaverlock after its inventor, Johnny Weaver

SEPTEMBER

They continue to build the feud with Dusty and Lex with Dusty slapping the sleeper on anyone who even looks at him funny. While Dusty was making a save for Ron Garvin, they turned the tables and Lex even got to get Dusty up in the backbreaker...they started to turn the New Breed into babyfaces despite the fact that Chris Champion still recovers from the auto wreck...Jim Cornette has been cutting in to Sean Royal's interview time to push the Midnight Express and they announced that Chris is recovering from a wreck...It was announced that Starrcade will be done in Chicago this year...Ron Garvin culminated his feud with Ric Flair by capturing the NWA title in Detroit on 9-25...although the title change took place on a Friday night, they showed it on the Saturday's TBS show pretending that it was live...they completed the Sean Royal turn by having him push Jim and then get destroyed by the Midnight Express...the feud however was short lived as they never had any matches come out of it and it was pretty well forgotten...Morton continued his feud with Blanchard and with Arn and Tully taking pinfalls across the country, it pretty well sets up a title change.

OCTOBER

Angles to justify the line up for Starrcade started taking shape with a few of the bout announced...Steve Williams will defend his UWF title against Barry Windham and since no turn was done, they are pushing it as a babyface match...Terry Taylor has been over fromt he UWF acting very obnoxious and it was announced that they will unify the TV titles from the two promotions...that will see Taylor against Nikita squaring off in November...Taylor stole the NWA TV title belt to help the feud along...Tully and Arn beat the Rock and Roll Express for the NWA titles with a little assist from the mIdnight Express...the Midnights destroyed Ricky Morton prior to a title match against Blanchard and Anderson which resulted in the babyfaces giving up the match...warfare began between Crockett and Titan as the battle of Thanksgiving started to take shape... inside comments flew back and forth with Dusty talking about war Games and saying how <u>that</u> was <u>really</u> survival....Dusty heated up his feud with Luger by bringing in Hiro Matsuda to teach Lex the sleeper...at least that's wha we were led to believe...Matsuda caught johnny Weaver in the sleeper and refused to let it go...Matsuda disappeared shortly thereafter with no follow up to the angle...Paul Jones brought in the Mighty Wilbur to join his stable but Wilbur turned babyface almost as soon as he came in...all the gimmicks for the Starrcade show were announced including a scaffold match with the two expresses, Dusty promising to retire if he lost to luger in a cage and Flair vs Garvin in a cage... Greg Valentine backed out of a deal to come in after Starrcade.

NOVEMBER

The NWA had their first show in the New York metropolitan area in several years when they invaded the Nassau Coliseum on November 24. More than 10,000 turned out to see the card which featured the fourth War Games match...Jim Crockett and Dusty had a meeting where Jim told Dusty to turn things around or else...Starrcade sold out the Chicago University of Illinois Circle Pavilion and did well across the country on the limited Pay Per View that it had plus some closed circuit locations...The card saw Luger losing the US title to Dusty and Ric Flair regaining his NWA title from Ron Garvin...the whole show lasted less than two hours and had seven matches...Kevin Sullivan turned back heel and decided to concentrate more on the managerial side of the business...Dusty, at a press

conference following Starrcade, hinted that he might retire in 1988... Luger began to show signs in his interviews that he might be turning babyface before too long.

DECEMBER

Luger turned babyface officially during a bunkhouse stampede in Miami... The stampede came down to him, JJ, Arn and Tully and JJ asked them all if he could please win the match so his mame would go down in the history books...all but Lex jumped out and Arn and JJ told him to at which point he threw JJ over the top rope, winning it himself...Lex will feud with the four horsemen now, with most of his matches against Arn...The third annual bunkhouse Stampedes got under way this month as well...this year will see them do things a little differently...whenever a wrestler wins a stampede, that qualifies him for the finals to be held next month in New York...after just one title match, the Road Warriors dropped their quest for the NWA tag titles and started a feud with the Barbarian and the Warlord over who is the strongest team in wrestling....Flair got some new blood to defend his title against...UWF'ers Sting and Michael Hayes were his main opponents for the month of December...Basically the UWF was forgotten about with no mention of anything other than Steve Williams' UWF title and then only casually...Mike Rotundo turned heel and joined forces with Kevin Sullivan...Sullivan had been coming around during Mike's matches and telling the announcer that Mike just wasn't aggressive enough...he seemed to have some inexplicable hypnotic power over Mike and finally, during a match with the Midnight Express, Rotundo left his partner Ricky Santana in the ring and went off with Sullivan... The TV show began drawing serious fire from fans for ending matches in progress...Rumors circulated about Crockett filing bankruptcy but they were started by a rival promotion who was trying to get the WTBS airtime away from them...it was announced that the bunkhouse stampede finals would be a pay per view event.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

JANUARY

Nick Bockwinkel heated up their feud again...Nick came out to make a save for someone and was attacked by Larry, Super Ninja (Shunji Takano) and mr. Saito...Old timer Buddy Wolfe came in for a short stay...Curt Henning wa hyped as the successor to Bockwinkel's throne...he has been promised the AWA belt sometime during the year, but Titan continues to court him as well...he spent some time this month in Japan...kevin Kelly came in as a heel...Ray Stevens also is back and helping Nick in his feud with Larry, Ninja and Saito...the Midnight Rockers continue their quest for the AWA tag team championship held by Doug Sommers and Buddy Rose...The AWA remembered that they have a junior heavyweight champion in Buck Zumhoff, however they conveniently forgot that fact in just a matter of a few short weeks...The Midnight Rockers finally captured the belts from Rose and Sommers on January 27th in a super match.

FEBRUARY

Minneapolis radio personality, Gary Rohn was allowed to buy into part of the promotion which left some people like Wally Karbo and Nick Bockwinkel a little upset that they weren't given the chance...Scott Hall won a series of battle royals to win several shots at Bockwinkel's belt, but Hall left the area so the title shots were to be fulfilled by Hennig... still he failed to win the promised belt...Midnight Rockers were involved in some matches against the Blaster and Boris Zhukov which had to be a real thrill to watch...Bockwinkel and Greg Gagne teamed in the Twin

cities against Zbyszko and Saito and Nick ended up doing the job for Larry...ESPN continues to play musical time slot with the AWA show.

MARCH

An extremely slow month for news out of the AWA...Russ Francis of the San Francisco 49ers was in for a short time to be guest referee in matches involving Jimmy Snuka and Colonel DeBeers...the end of the matches were always the same with DeBeers going for a loaded glove, Russ stopping him and Snuka sneaking up from behind for the pin...D. J. Peterson came in as a babyface to appeal to the young female fans...Buddy Rose's no shows around the circuit were due to a legit case of the flu.

APRIL

Leon White returned from Germany after winning the World Cup Tournament there over Oto Wanz...Wanz followed him to the United States to prove his victory there was nothing but a fluke, but Wanz disappeared after a Las Vegas TV taping and this threatened feud never got off the ground... Tag team tournaments ran on just about every card across the circuit with the winners touted to get a shot at the Rockers" title...in Minneapolis, Curt Hennig turned on Greg gagne during one of these tournament causing Greg to pinned at the hands of the Russinas (Zhukov and Ustinov)... in what we termed the battle of the ZZZ's, Buck Zumhoff started to feud with Boris Zhukov after sheik Kaissey and Boris destroyed Buck's boom box, an angle that is becoming almost an annual event...in what could possibly be the worst TV match of all time, the Blaster and Boris went up against Leon White and Jerry Blackwell...a record number of Television picture tubes were destroyed during this match...Bockwinkel defended his title in the Central states area for Bob Geigel despite the program listing ric Flair as the world's champion...Verne made a standing offer to any wrestler who could make it to the Las Vegas tapings that as long was they had a name, they would get a push...there weren't a whole lot of people standing in line for the chance however.

MAY

Curt hennig finally won the AWA championship, sort of...During Superclash II in San Francisco, Curt KO'd Bockwinkel after it appeared that Larry Zbyszko handed him a roll of dimes...the title was held up for a short period of time so that video tapes could be reviewed...actually, Curt had a solid offer from Titan and had agreed to jump, but he changed his mind and signed with the AWA and the belt was given to him after he signed...This brought Larry and Curt together and Bockwinkel had a short feud there trying to regain his title....Sergeant Slaughter made a short lived return to the AWA and appeared on ESPN teaming with Jerry Blackwell...he worked a maximum of three other dates before fading off in to the sunset...Paul Neu, who was used as the whale's double in the movie "Moby Dick" came in and was given a small push...no one was strong enough to give him much more than just a small push...Greg Gagne resumed a feud with Hennig that would last the rest of the year... The Tribune Company out of Chicago made an offer to the AWA to help back them with money, but Verne blew the deal when he wanted too much control and too much money...an agreement was reached with Central States, Memphis, and Continental as well as the Pacific northwest to exchange talent...what came out of this was that Curt (or Bockwinkel on occasion) defended the AWA against these promotion's top challengers and the AWA came up on the short end of the stick....Titan, upset that they couldn't take Hennig away, instead settled on the mIdnight Rockers who last all of one whole day...the Rockers did have the courtesy to drop the straps to the Russian team before departing.

JUNE

Colonel DeBeers, who appeared on one of Eddie Sharkey's cards as an independent was fired, but they brought in a guy under a mask called the Terrorist...they obviously wanted us to think it was the "suspended" DeBeers...we never did find out who it was as he only lasted for one set of TV tapings and to my knowledge, never did an interview...Wahoo McDaniel was announced as coming in and he was made new booker...Steve Olsonoski continued to fill in as the ninja whenever Super Ninja need a partner...Shunji Takano left the area towards the end of the month... rookies started to get a push due to lack of other personnel...Mitch Snow along with Brian Knobs and Jerry Sagonvich were among those...in a match with some ominous foreboding, Debbie Combs pinned Sherri Martel by mistake...Combs had Martel down in Green Bay and he referee counted three before he realized who was on top...after an embarrassing few seconds the girls reversed the pile and the ref counted again much to the absolute confusion of the fans in attendance...ironically enough, Martel would leave the promotion in a couple of months and not drop the title before she departed...Nick Bockwinkel is claiming that he has reigned as champion for 12 years...actually only 8 years, 2 months and 21 days total.

JULY

The AWA has come to stand for Anyone Who's Available especially this month...Dennis Condrey came in to team with former partner Randy Rose for form the original Midnight Express...they join with Memphis castoff Paul E Dangerously as their manager...the only person Curt Hennig will agree to defend his title against is Larry Zbyszko and everytime they are scheduled to meet each other, something comes up that Larry can't wrestle...Wahoo and DJ Peterson are forming a team to go after the Russians tag team belts...the AWA started working closely with the Memphis group which feuled rumors of a buyout by Jarrett promotions...negotiations took place but nothing came out of it...Sherri martel took off and popped up in Titan...Nick Bockwinkel and Larry Zbyszko brought their feud pretty much to an end with a match on ESPN...the match ended when Nick, Larry and the ref all three collided in the ring...Nick recovered first and took out a roll of dimes and cold cocked Larry and got the three count... the then blatantly tore open the roll of dimes and scattered them in the ring and even told the ref that he had used the dimes to get the win...referee Scott LeDoux ruled that since he had not seen the incident, he couldn't DQ Bock.

AUGUST

Verne continues to welcome cast offs from other promotions as his latest acquisition is Adrian Adonis...Tommy Rich took up a feud with Kevin Kelly that Jimmy Snuka had begun before he left...Rich would take on Kelly in a series of arm wrestling matches...this led to a skit where Sherri Martel interfered and Rich ended up ripping her dress off...this all happened during July, but they used it in August to explain why Sherri left in such a hurry...Dangerously started carrying a cordless phone to ringside....Larry Nelson collapsed during a TV taping and they feared that first that he had had a heart attack...turns out to be a bad case of the ulcers...he fully recovered...Curt and Greg continued to escalate their feud as they are the only regulars that Verne knows he can count on...they started mentioning the names of other promotions on their broadcasts, but always in an insult...Nick gave his swan song to the AWA by being injured during a match with Hennig...Larry Z came to ringside and hit Nick with his nunchucks then helped Curt administer a stuff piledriver...Nick is headed for the WWF to do color commentary.

SEPTEMBER

The rumored deal with the Tribune company fell apart as we suspected it would...The Tribune had offered to back the AWA but Verne wanted too much control of the talent and their money...Verne has had some financial problems and reportedly refused to guarantee the contract of his champion, Curt Hennig...they had some tense moments before they managed to work out a compromise...a new advertising approach here... they are now calling themselves the original wrestling league and that they don't have and hype or gimmicks...after talking about that for ten minutes, they announce street fight battle royals with the winner paying up to a million dollars...nothing like consistency to sell tickets... McDaniel had a match with Hennig that resulted in Wahoo being carried from the ring after Curt hit him with a foreign object...this was done to set up a feud, but nothing more really came out of it.

OCTOBER

Bockwinkel gave official notice that he would not be returning to the AWA...turns out that after his injury he made a short tour of Japan and then accepted the offer from Titan...Verne never even made a counter offer....Boris Zhukov left and did not have the courtesy to drop his half of the tag team belts...Jarrett promotions came to Minneaplois to buy the AWA and rumors circulated that they had indeed...the sale fell through however...Buddy landell was given a chance and he blew it after only a week or so...Dick Slater is in as well...the AWA announced that they will create a TV champion...the winner will be the one who gets to 50 points first and every match will have either a positive point value or a negative point value assigned...the title eventually came down to a tournament and the point system was forgotten (but the results of Greg gagne winning happened in 1988 so we can't talk about it here)...Bill Dundee and Jerry Lawler became the new tag champs when they beat Ystinov and old standby Doug Sommers for thebelts in Memphis... Mad Dog Vachon was injured by a hit and run driver in Altoona, Iowa and as a result, had to have part of his right leg amputated....the AWA announced that Larry Zbyszko has been suspended indefinitely...he had given notice and will start to work for Crockett in November... Tommy Rich abandoned his feud with Kevin Kelly and instead went to work with Adrian Adonis which ended up with Adonis and Dangerously putting lipstick all over Rich's face.

NOVEMBER

The Midnight Express are the new AWA tag champs as a result of a victory over Dundee and Lawler in Whitewater, Wisconsin...Steve DiSalvo came in for a couple of matches before heading for Calgary...Nord the Barbarian was a hit in TV commercials for the family's car dealership in minneapolis and Verne started to use him in Twin Cities shows...he wouldn't push him on a national basis because he was afraid that Nord would desert him for the WWF...Greg Gagne won the AWA belt for one night on Thanksgiving at a show in Minneapolis...they ended up giving the belt back to Hennig however and the angle was done only for the Twin Cities and not broadcast nationwide...DJ Peterson beat Kevin Kelly on the same card...Peterson would have had to have left the area if he had lost but instead he got the services of Kelly's valet, Medussa Mecilli for a month...in typical AWA fashion, DJ left the area anyway...Dick Slater is gone already... the deal with Memphis fell through.

DECEMBER

Tommy Rich left the area but not before shooting an angle where Adonis broke his arm...December is usually the biggest month for the AWA yet this year they were only able to book about four shows, most of them for high school gymnasiums...the Midnight Rockers returned for the Chrismas show...Paul E Dangerously appeared to be doing some shoot interviews on Pro Wrestling This Week insulting the management of the AWA...the AWA has asked PWTW no to show any more Danger Zones.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

JANUARY

As outlined in the top stories for the year section, Jim Neidhart was arrested on board a USAir flight for shoving/punching a stewardess... They started playing up the Hogan-Andre match up at Wrestlemania with a series of Piper's Pits...the first saw Hogan come out and get a trophy for being able to stay champion for three years, and Andre getting a trophy for being undefeated for 15...Hogan's trophy was much larger than Andre's trophy...also they started setting up a feud between Hercules and Billy Jack Haynes over who had the better full nelson...Randy Savage had a series of matches across the country against George the Animal Steele where the winner would get not only become the intercontenental champion, bu also get Lovely Elizabeth...this feud set a new record in number of fans who stayed home....Hogan was defending he title against Kamala in most cities...On a Saturday Night's Main Even taped in December, a back up plan was devised in case Andre couldn't make it to Wrestlemania with Paul Orndorff and Hulk Hogan squaring off in a tag team match and both crawling over the top of the cage at the same time....Demolition, the WWF version of the road Warriors debuted with Bill Eadie and Rex Culley filling the roles.

FEBRUARY

Jake the Snake Roberts turned babyface during his Snake PIt interview segments when he was hit in the head with Honky Tonk Man's guitar... the Brittish Bulldogs lost the WWF tag team titles to Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart and Danny Davis turned heel all at the same time...Dynamite Kid, who still can't walk due to his back injury was carried to ringside by Davey Boy Smith and was attacked before the bell by Jimmy Hart making the match a handicap match...Davis ignored a pin by Davey Boy while trying to make Dynamite get up off the arena floor and on to the ring apron...WWF president Jack Tunney suspended Davis for life after the match...Randy Savage was accused of striking a nine year old boy in Florida who had tried to touch Liz...Darry Darsow, aka Krusher Kruschev, arrived to take Randy Culley's place in the Demolition tag team...another Saturday night's Main Event was filmed from Detroit where Andre eliminated Hogan in a batlle royal...line up for Wrestlemania is announced including celebrities Bob Uecker and Mary Hart.

MARCH

wrestlemania made world wide news by drawing an amazing 93,176 people to the Pontiac Silverdome...the show was termed the best of the three so far...results are found elsewhere but the important ones are: Hogan pinned Andre clean in the middle...Steamboat took the Intercontenental title fromSavage...a feud also began between Hacksaw Jim Duggan (a newcomer) and the Iron Sheik and Nicolai Volkoff...wrestlers here get amonth off before returning to work.

APRIL

Roddy Piper made good on his threat of retirement after Wrestlemania heading for Holywood...Chris DeGeorge made his announcing debut...Ice Cream Bars were the next item for marketing...Ken patera returned to action following his release from prison and they are pushing him as a convict who has straightened out...Bobby Hennan is said to be responsible for sending him to the pen...Jim Neidhart was acquitted of all charges stemming from the airline incident when he brought eighteen witnesses on his behalf to court...the group was split into A, B, and C teams to tour three different cities per night...Outback Jack and hillbilly Jim appeared together on interviews to discuss culinary delights from their respective areas boosting sales of Pepto Bismol across the country... Billy jack and Hercules continued their feud with a series of chain matches on tour...Jake and Honky Tonk continued in their feud also...Savage and Steamboat squared off against each other in a series of cage matches across the country with Steamboat winning each night when he was accidentally knocked out of the cage.

MAY

Adrian Adonis was fired...Brutus Beefcake became known as the Barber after his performance at Wrestlemania...he had instances where he got to shave part of Johnny V's hair across the circuit...Hogan spent time defending his belt against Honky Tonk Man...Ken Patera had a televised debate with Bobby Heenan in which he attacked Hennan and as a result the Brain wound up wearing a neck brace...Killer Khan arrived and will be managed by Mr. Fuji...Also new to the promotion are one Man Gang and Ted DiBiase who defected when the UWF was sold to Crockett...Missy Hyatt also came in doing a babyface interview spot called Missy's Manor however she didn't come off well in the babyface role and she was fired/quit before the month was out...Ricky Steamboat is taking some time off after the birth of his son and is scheduled to drop the newly won intercontinental belt any time now...The islanders turned heel and will be managed by Bobby Heenan...they will feud with the Can Am Connection...Jim Duggana nd the Iron Sheik were arrested while driving in New Jersey for drinking while driving and possession of drugs...both were suspended indefinitely by McMahon.

JUNE

Rick Steamboat lost the intercontinental belt right on schedule, but he lost it to a surprise entry...the Honky Tonk Man...Jake Roberts took some time off due to a legit neck injury...JunkYard Dog was given a second chance by the promotion to tone down his out of the ring lifestyle... Jesse Ventura drew rave reviews for his role in Preditor...Bob Orton and Don Muraco spent most of the month turning on each other in every city they wrestled in...the Midnight Rockers came in for a one night stand...it had supposed to be longer but they were fired after just one TV taping...the match to my knowledge never made it to the air... Ted DiBiase began appearing in short segments to show off his new role as he million dollar man...it's complete with Soul Train jones playing the part of his bodyguard/chauffeur/servant that has been named Virgil after someone very dear to their heart...Mr. T came in to be a special referee for certain matches...his drawing power turned out to be just slightly better than Outback Jack...Billy graham started to feud with Butch Reed over who has the better physique...Heenan and his family continue in their feud with Ken patera...Dingo Warrior is in and they're calling him the ultimate Warrior...Chavo Guerrero is also in, but in a very limited role...Dingo is doing shows with the C team and not appearing on TV.

4-14

JULY

Bam Bam Bigelow is the newest arrival and all the managers in the WWF are bidding for his services...Vince had a surprise drug test before TV tapings in Indianapolis and several wrestlers failed the test resulting in suspensions of varying lengths...Hogan and Savage headlined cards this month...John Stossel won an award of $425,000 from the WWF from an incident on 20/20 a couple of years back...Killer Khan began using his green fog again after it had been on the shelf for some time... Sir Oliver humperdink was the manager eventually chosen by Bigelow... Paul Orndorff turned back babyface after bobby Heenan said on TV that his newest charge, Rick Rude, has the best body in wrestling...Tom Zenk walked out of the promotion and his role in the Can Am Connection...Rick Martel continues to feud with the Islanders and rip Zenk on TV...David Samartino has returned but is stuck doing jobs on the C team.

AUGUST

Rumors flew that the Road Warriors had signed or were about to sign wih Titan...the deal fell through at the last moment...Sherri Martel won the ladies championship on her first night with Titan in Houston... Hype began on the newest record album being released by Titan called Piledriver...Martel began teaming with Tito Santana in the feud with the Islanders...they are calling themselves Strike Force...Ken patera pulled some muscles in his arm during a TV squash match and will need reconstructive surgery to repair...Randy Savage is gradually turning babyface with the announcers making nice comments about him now...The actual Orndorff took place this month being shown on TV...he played the heel role right up until the day of the airing...Titan banned the use of razor blades used to slice up a wrestler's own forehead...Houston promoter Paul Boesch was honored with a retirement card in his honor... several wrestlers who are not Titan wrestlers appeared on the farewell card...several wrestling greats were on hand as well including Verne Gagne...HTM is claiming to be the greatest IC champion of all time which has provoked Randy Savage.

SEPTEMBER

DIbiase continues to disgust people by offering money to members of the audience and then welching when it comes to the payoff...the people he chooses are plants...Savage is this year's King of the Ring as the result of a win of an annual tournament held in Providence Rhode Island... Kamala walked out...Savage did his official babyface turn with a confrontation with HTM during a Craig DeGeorge interview segment...on the latest edition of Saturday Night's Main Event, he wrestled HTM and the end saw the Hart Foundation and HTM tripling up on Randy...Liz tried to make the save and Honky pushed her down which immediately got him over as the top heel in the group...Titan announce plans for some sort of a show on Thanksgiving which, for all intents and purposes, is to eliminate Crockett from getting on the Pay Per View system...Jim Duggan was allowed to return after his suspension, however there was no mention of his absence...Sam Houston who has been labouring on the C team since his arrival, is set to get a little push.

OCTOBER

Ticket prices were raised on all house shows across the county and the schedule of shows was revised...there is no longer a C team which means they aren't running three cities a night...instead they will run two shows a night and four shows on the weekends...two teams will work an afternoon show and an evening show which means most wrestlers will work an average of five matches in a period of 72 hours...lots of the jobber corps has been given their notice...Don Muraco and Bob Orton, having official split, are working most cards including some televised bouts... Richard Beltzer, the talk show host who was victim of Hulk Hogan's front face lock on TV, has filed suit against Titan Sports...Nick Bockwinkel signed on to do colour commentary...Strike Forse finally won the tag team belts on the syndicated show...Rick Steamboat returned to active duty...Jimmy Hart introduced the Glamour Girls (LeLani Kai and judy Martin) as the new girls tag champs...Jim Duggan began a feud with Harley Race...Dingo Warrior and Sam Houston are getting some TV time now as a result of the C team cancellations.

NOVEMBER

The Survivor Series was successfula nd saw Andre win the main event with the babyface teams sweeping the other categories...Superstar Graham has been experiencing a lot of pain with his new hip and has decided to retire from wrestling...Don Muraco will take his place in the feud he had with Butch Reed...Demolition and Billy Jack Haynes and Ken Patera will be feuding over the next few months...they have done angles with Demoliton beating up Billy Jack"s cousin Brady Boone...Ted DiBiase blew out his knee and had to have some arthroscopic surgery...Virgil filled in for him on some dates with Junk Yard Dog...George the Animal Steel and Danny davis culminated a forgetable feud...Randy Savage and Bret Hart had one of the best matches ever on a Saturday Night's Main Event.

DECEMBER

Andre got back into the swing of things at a Saturday Night's Main Event taping in Landover Maryland by choking the beejezus out of Hulk Hogan... the show will air in early January...Ted DiBiase has offered to buy the WWF championship from Hulk...Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake will resume a forgotten feud from a couple of months back...The 37th annual Slammy Awards took place in Atlantic City and the show was basically a spoof of award shows...Fan reaction to the show was mixed at best...at least two stations pulle dthe plug on the show in the middle due to questionable content, mainly having to do with a strip tease that Rick Rude did after accepting his best body award...The Islanders have dropped their feud with Strike Force and instead will feud wih the British Bulldogs... in a televised match, they kidnapped Mathilda...Nick Bockwinkel was appointed special referee in a series of One Man Gang-Hogan matches around the Midwest...Plans were announced to combat the Crockett pay per view event in january with a free show on the uSA network called the Royal Rumble...Speculation as to what will take place at Wrestlemania began early this year with most thinking that Hogan will drop his title sometime prior to Wrestlemania...Andre agreed to sell the belt to DiBiase should he win the thing...Hogan had responded with a very vocal, "HELL NO" in reply to DiBiase's attempt to buy it from him.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

REVIEW BY GREG ANDERSON

JANUARY

Rip Oliver was involved in a mercifully short feud with Agent Orange (Jerry Sampson), a masked stiff who had worked the territory under his real identity months before. Mike Miller and Ricky Santana also feuded as Miller stole Rick's tuxedo jacket and ripped it up in front of him. Following a six man tag on the 24th, Abudda Dein threw powder into Santana's eyes to set up a strap match between them the following week. Santana won that bout but Oliver hung him with the strap afterwards. Mighty Sputnik and Pat Brady debuted and Ski Hi Lee, a near 7-foot rookie was also pushed.

FEBRUARY

The Assassin (David Sierra) returned after a brief absence to resume his feud with "the Clan" (Oliver, Miller, Abudda). There were rumors of Kevin Sullivan, Abdullah the Butcher and Bruiser Brody coming in but they never did. Sullivan did send in a taped interview for local TV (taped in Florida), mainly plugging the Oliver-Assassin feud. Mark Young (Mark Scarpa, son of Jay Strongbow) debuted and showed some great moves but was used as a jobber.

MARCH

This was a month for gimmick matches around the territory. The TV shows were terrible all month. In the arenas, there were coal miner's, Bunkhouse 6-man tags and strap matches involving Oliver, Dein and Miller and Santana, Coco Samoa and Assassin.

APRIL

Art Crews returned and rejoined the "Clan". Santana and Oliver feuded over the Northwest title. On the 18th, Assassin slapped Oliver across the face (legitimately hard) on a TV interview to heat up their feud. Oliver put a $5,000 bounty on Assassin's head. On the 18th, Crews tried to collect and the bout ended in a draw. Santana and Samoa feuded with tag champs Dein and Crews and scored a non-title win on the 25th. George Skoaland and Scott Peterson debuted.

MAY

On the 5-2 Portland card, Matt Borne came in to face Assassin in a coal miner's/bounty match, which was a bloody brawl, won by Assassin on COR. Also this night, Mike Miller turned babyface during a tag match when he refused to do Oliver's dirty work and turned on Rip. The Portland Sports Arena was packed and several fans turned away for an Assassin vs. Oliver coal miner's cage match before which Assassin promised to unmask. During the televised portion of this card, Roddy Piper appeared and did some color commentary and the fans popped and stayed up for the rest of the show. On the 9th, Assassin made a save as Miller was attacked by Oliver and Crews and the former tag partners-turned foes reunited on the spot. Santana and Dein left the area (Dein left to get married) while Billy 2 Eagles returned. Joey Jackson took Deins place in the "Clan". On the 1st, the promotion ran a combined show with the AWA in Eugene before a full house. Finally, on the 30th, Miller was formed and had a dress and lipstick put on him by the "Clan". Assassin also had left the area after losing the cage/miner's match to Oliver.

JUNE

The Assassin returned for a brief time to face Oliver in bunkhouse and coal miner's matches in Eugene and Portland. Steve Doll debuted in mid-month and Super Ninja (Shunji Takano) came in at the end of the month to join Oliver's heel camp.

JULY

Super Ninja attacked and "injured" Billy 2 Eagles, who left town. Oliver placed a $5,000 bounty on Miller and Ninja tried to collect it on the 18th. Oliver attacked Miller in the match but Mike got the best

Of him and stole the envelope with the bounty money in it. Bill (steve) Casey made his first appearances this month.

AUGUST

Scott Peterson and Steve Doll formed a tag team. Mike Miller won a hair/bounty match from Art Crews on the 1st. On the 8th, Ninja attacked Miller on an interview and got Oliver's money back. Rip Oliver left the area for an "audition" with Titan in San Francisco. Oliver returned at the end of the month for one week and was gone again to do jobs in the WWF.

SEPTEMBER

The Grappler (Len Denton) suddenly appeared, replacing Oliver as lead heel and booker. Chris Colt returned to be the area's manager and formed the "Mafia" with Ninja, Moondog Moretti and Joey Jackson. Grappler began a feud with Coco Samoa and attacked and bloodied Doll, who came in to save Steve. Mike then feuded with Grappler. Paul Neu, who had been around several weeks but only working occassional shows and undergoing further training, received a big push as simply "Avalanche".

OCTOBER

Scott Peterson and Joey Jackson feuded with great matches resulting. Samoa and Moretti feuded with a few loser-eats dog food, I Quit and dog collar matches thrown in. Miller and Ninja had a street fight match on the 24th. Denton's booking style revitalized the area and crowds were getting bigger as a result. Midgets Bad Boy Brown and little Mr. T toured the area and Grappler attacked T to further his heel status. Peterson and Doll feuded with Ninja and Jackson over the tag belts, resulting in great matches. "American Ninja" arrived and said he had a score to settle with Super Ninja stemming from Japan. The new Ninja spent the first three weeks or so not wrestling but appearing at ring-side whenever Super Ninja wrestled. Assassin also returned, sporting the Southern Hemisphere title.

NOVEMBER

Rip Oliver returned in a surprise attack after being layed off by Titan. A Northwest TV title was created and rookie Art Barr (son of area ref Sandy Barr) won a battle royal to become the first champ. American Ninja unmasked, revealing rookie Brian Adams (trained in Japan by Inoki). Avalanch turned heel and joined the "Mafia". After Oliver's surprise attack, the Assassin was "injured" and left the area. Then it was said he lost his Southern Hemisphere in Puerto Rico because of it. Chris Colt was involved in a hair cutting angle and clipped locks from Art Barr, Mike Miller and Sandy Barr. Adams unmasked and defeated Super Ninja in a chain/kendo stick match. Colt managed to put a towel over Super's head to keep his I.D. a secret. Ninja then left the territory.

DECEMBER

Matt Borne returned to get at the Grappler. He beat "Av" on the 12th to secure a title shot at Grappler. Assassin managed to pull Grappler's boot off but on a later TV interview, Grappler and Oliver attacked him and got the boot back. Borne left after getting a dq. victory over the masked champion. Assassin and Grappler had a bout in a cage with the boot and a coal miner's glove on poles in the Holiday show on the 26th. The card sold out with several fans turned away. Oliver and Adams began a short feud.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

JANUARY

Two departures made headlines here, the first being Jim Duggan...Duggan had wanted to defect to the World Wrestling Federation several months before but Cowboy Bill Watts had enforced his contract...Duggan was either fired or let out of his contract as long as he lost a series of loser leave town matches to One Man Gang...Duggan's departure created a void in the tag team championship which Duggan held with Terry taylor... a tournament will be set up to determine new champs...the other departure is the Fantastics...rumor has it that they will work only part time for World Class while Bobby Fulton goes back to Ohio to help his father in an independent promotion there...the freebirds continue to feud with the top babyfaces in the area including Steve Williams...Ted DiBiase got a pin on One Man Gang (UWF champion) on TV but the match was not sanctioned so the title did not change.

FEBRUARY

The tournament to crown new tag team champions turned out to provide fans with several angles...Chris Adams teamed with Iceman Parson and they defeated Buddy Robert and Micheal Hayes in the first round...their next match was against Dibiase and Williams...Skandar Akbar's army came to the ring and attacked Doc and Ted and Chris went outside to help... Iceman stayed in the ring refusing to help while Doc and Ted were counted out...Chris didn't want to get the win that way, but Iceman insisted... they flipped a coin to see who would be the one to choose a new partner and Chris won the toss and selected Savannah Jack...Iceman attacked Jack and Chris had to choose a new partner and chose Terry Taylor...they beat Sting and Steiner for the victory...A newcomer to the area is Super Ninja...Terry gordy continues to work on a heavily bandaged knee...he continues to feud with Doc...the freebirds have been doing a lot of run-ins lately...the uWF television network lost a few stations during the month as well.

MARCH

More troubles in the front office...the family that helped Watts promote in the Mississippi area change their allegiance from the uWF to rival world Class...the first nation wide tour has been announced and will cover such cities as Los Angles, Chicago, Atlanta and minneapolis... Steve Williams brought in a protege, Steve Cox, who is very very green... Dark Journey was injured legitimatly and will be replace temporarily by Nickla Robert (Baby Doll)...Angel of Death turned on Michael Hayes by accepting money from Akbar...Eddie Gilbert took over the book here... sunshine has been managing the Freebirds...Terry Taylor made headlines outside the ring by punching and headbutting a 16 year old fan in Ohio... Iceman joined forces with Hyatt Hot Stuff...he and Savannah Jack are feuding at present.

APRIL

In what turned out to be the biggest shock of the year, bill Watts sold the UWF to Jim Crockett for a reported four million dollars...the original plan released to the press called for the separate operation of the two groups...the sale will be completed on May 1...Terry Taylor began his heel turn as he and Chris lost hte tag belts to Sting and Steiner when Terry "accidentally" kicked Chris" foot off the ropes while Chris was being pinned...Taylor isn't making a big deal out of the loss... TV jobber Gary Young will get a bit of a push by turning heel and feuding with Chavo Guerrero...Young and guerrero were the last left in the ring during a battle royal and Chavo wanted to split the money...Young refused

and following a clean scientific match in which Young was pinned, he attacked Chavo and stole the money that was the prize...the changes began to take place with the new regime as Big Bubba Rogers was sent over to take the uWF title from One Man Gang...Gang has decided to leave as has Sam Houston and Baby Doll...John Ayers was named commissioner of the UWF...Gordy returned from Japan and the Freebirds are now basically babyfaces and feuding with Devastation Inc...They did an angle with Sting to see how he would get over as a face pitting him against TV champ Eddie Gilbert and he was cheered heavily however he refuse to wrestle his friend.

MAY

The decline in quality has started already...TV taping included 17 squash matches ou of 19 total...Joel Watts left for Titan...Live shows have been suspended during a reorganizational period with UwF wrestlers filling in on NWA shows across the country...Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner also came in from the nWA to take the UWF tag titles...all titles have been upgraded to "world" title status...Steve Cox, who had been getting a push has been demoted to full time jobber...Terry Taylor and Chris Adams had a TV match which was a babyface match with Chris winning by count out...he refused the victory and a rematch was scheduled...Ted was set up to feud with Doc, but Ted left for Japan and won't make a decision about staying or leaving until he gets back.

JUNE

In the Taylor Adams rematch, Taylor turned heel by piledriving Adams on the floor out side the ring...he also interrupted a Steve cox interview and slapped him around...Ted made his decision to leave for the WWF... Taylor's heel turn was interrupted by a serious car accident which will leave him sidelined for several weeks...he is aligning himself with Eddie Gilbert...Dick Murdoch came in and took over Terry's place and after a televised match between Eddie and Doc, Murdoch attacked Doc and ended up breaking Doc's arm (legit)...A new title called the Western States Heritage Title saw a one night tournament in Houston held to determine the first champ...it was won by barry Windham...Sting turned babyface after a TV match with Terry Taylor in which Eddie Gilbert handed Taylor his shoe to clobber Sting with...Magnum TA was brought in to do the color commentary on the UWF TV show with Jim Ross...The TV show as of late has improved slightly with each week having a contender's match to determine a new challenger for one of the titles here.

JULY

Steve Williams took the UWF belt from Bubba Rogers at the Great American Bash in Oklahoma city...in a strange way of promoting, OU coach Barry Switzer had been hyping the match helping Doc prepare for the match...Barry was not even at the card in which Doc won the belt...Missy returned from her short stay in the WWF and is doing color on the power Pro show... Several rookies are getting shots here including Shane Douglas, Davie Haskins, and the Terminator who turns out to be Road Warrior Animal's little brother in real life...Termie is being pushed with the use of a claw hold which he has been slapping on the Freebirds...Black Bart started feuding with Chris Adams.

AUGUST

Steve Cox was named Rookie of the Year by a "fan vote" however Gary Young claimed that he should have won and he and Cox are now feuding over the rookie trophy...Akbar's Army and the Lightening Express have started to feud...Terry Taylor held a press conference to explain his change of attitude and his absence but ducked every question put to him by the press...Adams came in after Taylor walked out but Taylor came back and attacked him in a poorly executed brawl whcih saw Adams lay the blade down on a podium and forget to pick it up when he needed to use it...Ron Simmons is in and will be helping Doc watch his back for sneak attacks...Photographer Jimmy Suzuki flashed a picture too close to Terry at a match and Taylor attacked him...this is the third time Suzuki has done this angle.

SEPTEMBER

With the demise of the Florida promotion, some of the talent from there is headed this way...the Sheepherders top the list...After clearing WPIX out of New York, the TV program underwent drastic changes with it looking more like a newscast than a wrestling show...the first shows showed nothing but angles that had been previously set up...This turned out to be the beginning of the end with Dusty showing full power here and pushing his own NWA guys rather than the UWF crew...Tiger Conway Jr. resurfaced here and is teaming with Shaska Whatley as heel tag team known as the Jive tones.

OCTOBER

Larry Zbyszko made his debut along with his valet Baby Doll...Akbar brought in a team called the Canadian Kodiaks who lasted all of three weeks...the TV show continued to undergo changes, none of which improved it from the takeover point but loads from the previous attempts...Jack Gregory was hired to do some of the commentating...John Ayers was made fall guy for the way the promotion has declined in recent months...he has been palying for the Denver Broncos but was cut late in the season... a unification match was set for Starrcade for the NWA TV title and the UWF Tv title held by Nikita Koloff and Terry Taylor respectively.

NOVEMBER

All angles centered around Starrcade as Steve Williams did a mild heel turn and Terry Taylor lsot the TV title-unification match to Nikita... The promotion gave pink slips to a number of wrestlers, mainly jobbers, but also those like Shane Douglas and others who had received mild pushes.

DECEMBER

The UWF became a memory with all mention of UWF titles, beginning with the tag team belts, ceasing to exist...Steve Williams and Barry Windham started a verbal feud with not a single match resulting...all wrestlers were involved more with the bunkhouse stampedes...Terry Taylor was missing from action and eddie Gilbert was hidden deep within the ranks...Most of the talent departed for World Class and Memphis, but found that the money left a lot to be desired.

REST IN PEACE...UWF

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

JANUARY

World Class tried an experiment on their 1/24 show by airing a show with out an announcer...they did that a lot this year, but this time there wasn't even anyone pretending to be one...the experiment lasted one week....Al Madril challenged Kevin Von Erich for this area's championship...Roberto Soto was in for a while...Bob bradley got a bit of a push as the Cat...The Fantastics will work a few dates here and there... Kerry promised to return to the ring but didn't during January.

FEBRUARY

Word broke out in the press concerning the assault trial of Mike Von Erich...Fritz had managed to keep it hushed up until now...Mike is accused of punching out an emergency room doctor...George Scott, a WWF plant, was booted as booker and Bruiser Brody was named to that spot...Red River jack mysteriously appeared on the scene after Brody had lost a loser leave town match back in December...Kerry made his comeback pinning Brian Adias in just about 6:00...his return drew a disappointing 3000... Mike Von Erich was acquitted of the assault charges...Gary Hart brought in the first of many muscle bound stiff, this one known as the Mercanary.

MARCH

Mike Von Erich again made the police blotters by settling out of court for punching out some guy's car...Hart brought in stiff number two - Jeep Sweenson...Jack Victory returned here...other newcomers include John Nord...Eric Embry...and Ted Arcidi...David Manning and Gary Hart started to feud...The Fantastics feud with the RPMs...Embry is putting makeup on his opponents after he beats them.

APRIL

Mike Von Erich made headlines for the third month in a row and for the last time in his life as his body was found, an apparent victim of a suicide, near Lewisville Lake in Denton County...Eli the Eliminator is the latest in a long line of stiffs to come in...Spike Huber also had a short stay...Things here slowed considerably with the news of Mike's death and all hype is directed at next month's parade of champions.

MAY

The David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions included Mike's name on the marquee...the show itself featured mud wrestling and scaffold matches...Fritz got a new business partner in the form of Cowboys owner Bum Bright...problems arose with the syndication company that works with Fritz as Fritz tried to get out of a contract with them and they threatend to destroy several hundred hours worth of World Class tapes... an agreement was finally reached...Kevin Von Erich became the latest in a long line of Von Erich tragedies...he collapsed in the ring during a six amn tag team match...Brian Adias was blamed for the collapse when they said he hit Kevin with a punch that he had learned in the Orient... Adias has never been to the orient...a host of departures following the payoff in the Parade of champions...among them Jeep Sweenson, Eli the Eliminator, Black Bart, and Nord the Barbarian...Boy Tony is a newcomer and is playing the role of a gay cowboy...

JUNE

Kevin had a tour of Japan and came back in one piece...unfortunately, some of Rick Hazard, who Papa Fritz sent along to look after Kevin, came back with a few parts worn beyond repair...they visited a restaurant and mad some passes at japanes women who reported the incident to their boss...their boss just happened to be part of Japan's underground and he sent a message to the two Americans...Kevin missed the message by taking a separate elevator but the welcoming committee delivered a double message to Hazard...Brian Adias did the oriental tool on Al Madril and Madril reenacted the Kevin Von Erich incident, complete with someone administering CPR...the new syndicated show features a couple of segments done on the premise of a Piper's Pit...One is Kerry's Korner where he shows some (but certainly not all) of the family's outside activities... the other is Fritz's scrapbook which gives Papa Fritz a chance to rewrite history with clips and memories of the past....Dingo Warrior had left for the WWF but got tired of no push on the C team and returned here for two weeks...he promptly got down on his hands and knees and begged Vince to take him back and Vince did.

JULY

Kerry"s new role with the promotion is behind the mike...newcomers include Mat Borne who had left for a short period...the Spoiler who had worked the old Georgia promotion and is here as a face...Al Perez who will be challenging Kevin for the title...and Shawn Simpson, Seve"s little brother...the RPM's broke off wih manager Percy Pringle and will challeng the new tag champs, Frankie Lancaster and Eric Embry for the titles... the production values on the show are way up but the talent and announcing are still near the bottom of the pile....Bruiser Brody was somehow convinced to do a job for Abdullah the Butcher which brings an end to their feud here in Texas...Brody was ousted as booker a couple months back.

AUGUST

Tony Atlas is being billed as the black Superman and is actually wearing a superman costume to the ring...Ted Arcidi and Matt Borne are set to feud after Arcidi attacked Tony Borne (Matt's father) with a chain... Kevin Von Erich refused to do a job for Al Perez and elected to lose the title by no showing a title defense....The Fantastics are finally gone....Mark Lowrance proved to be not such a bad announcer when he took some time off and was replaced by Don Gay and Gary Holder...we still wonder if either had ever even seen a wrestling match before or if Lowrance taught them everything he knew and they forgot...Tony Atlas is he latest victim of the oriental tool...Phil Apollo is due in...Kerry keeps promising a return.

SEPTEMBER

Kevin is having problems remembering who he is feuding with...he grabbed a house mike and threatened to break "Chris Adams' thumb"...trouble is, Chris isn't in yet and he was supposed to be talking about Brian Adias...the Iron Sheik was able to find a job here...Ted arcidi won the Texas championship as a result of a battle royal victory...they started listing top ten challenges including a lot of people who not only don't work here, but also have no intention of ever doing so... one faux pas has them listing japanese wrestler Jumbo Tsurta...trouble with that is that he works for the competition of the japanese promoter that Fritz works with.

OCTOBER

Kevin defeated Al Perez with brother Kerry's help at the 10-21 show at the Cotton Bowl, but the title was returned to Perez after a review of the tape...Kerry returnedto the ring on the same card defeating Al Perez and making a few skeptics eat their words...Steve Simpson is out with a legit eye injury...the top tens continue to list people who have never even wrestled a World Class card.

NOVEMBER

The Thing, a Pampero Firpo lookalike with multi colored hair, is Gary Hart's newest addition...Bum Bright and a couple of businessmen are financing the von Erich Over America tour...the tour will terrorize such cities as Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Chicago and Birmingham...Fritz announced plans to run a Thanksgiving day show in opposition to the WWF-NWA battle... the tour got off to a resounding flop drawing 300 curious to Birmingham and 2500 in San Antonio which had Wrestlemania scale hype before hand... Steve Cox made his debut...Kevin and Kerry will tour Japan....Ken Mantell bought Fritz' share of the promotion and will become the booker...lots of rumors as to who he'll bring in...Bill Watts was rumored to have put up the money behind Mantell but there is no truth to that.

DECEMBER

Terry Gordy has returned and we look for the new year to bring lots as new faces as well as Mantell slowly takes control...basically Mantell's Wild West group is being incorporated into World Class although the future of one Lance Von Erich is uncertain at best...Fritz had admitted several months ago after his departure that Lance was really no relation to the family at all...also uncertain is the future of Wild West announcer Bill Mercer who quit World Class to go to work for Mantell...it's not clear, and may never be, just how much of the promotion Mantell now owns...figures range from 33% to 51%...during the Christmas show, all hell broke losse before the title match between Kery and Al Perez, Gordy, Roberts, and a large bald man stormed the ring and demanded that Terry be given a title shot...a brawl ensued and Fritz was left handcuffed to the ring ropes while the heels took turns beating him...when Kevin finally came in to make the save they were able to help Fritz out of the ring...on the way to the dressing room, he collapsed, originally thought to be a (worked) heart attack...they later saw how crass that was and blamed it on other causes...Mantell is reviving the Freebird-Von Erich Wars of a few years back...most of the Wild West guys are now working full time here and although the promotion has been disolved reference is still made to it quite frequently...Baylor Medical Center was somehow convinced to play along with the Fritz "heart attack" thing by issuing reports on his condition to callers.

MEMPHIS

JANUARY

Tommy Rich has turned heel after a misunderstanding between him and Jerry Lawler and they do battle all over the circuit...Downtown Bruno is stepping into the ring against a lady that the Miami Vice chose oout of the audience named Emily Arthur...they are having matches with boxing gloves around the territory and from reports, Emily doesn't know it's a work...the tag titles were held up following a match where two refs counted separate pinfalls on the RPMs and Jeff Jarrett and Billy Travis... the two refs were Frank Morrell and Downtown Bruno...Soul Train Jones is a newcomer, wearing the same outfit that Apollo Creed wore in the first Rocky movie...Austin Idol came in and he along with Tommy rci injured Jerry Lawler by posting him on the ring post...Jerry Blackwell

was in for a week or so as were the Sheepherders and the Fabulous Ones who brought their Florida feud north...Downtown Bruno took over the affairs of Boy Tony and they feuded with Tracy Smothers.

FEBRUARY

Dave Brown and Lance Russell celebrated twenty years of broadcasting together by getting to see Downtown Bruno get his face shoved in the cake...Jarrett and Travis are feuding with Bubba and Goliath after the departure of the RPMs...Pat Tanaka and Boy Tony began to feud when they were to meet on tV however Tony came out on crutches...they used the crutch to pearl harbor Tanaka, put a dress on him and apply makeup to his face...Jonathan Boyd and Paul Diamond are running a middle of the card feud...the Fabulous One split up, this time it seems, for good... no problems between them; Stan Lane went to work for Crockett.

MARCH

Pat tanaka turned heel after being confronted with questions from Lance Russell..Lance questioned him after he said that he had been dumped by partner Jeff Jarrett in favor of Billy Travis...Pat showed some jealousy towards Travis and in fact caused Billy to lose a loser leave town match against Bubba and Goliath...he threw salt in Billy"s eyes...Bam Bam Bigelow came in to help Jerry Lawler with his feud against Idol and Rich...other new faces include a lord Humongous, Mark Starr and Brickhouse Brown...Billy Travis never left the area (he had planned to but Crockett bought the Florida promotion and cancelled his plans) but came back under a mask calling himself the BT Express...Paul E Dangerously began his managerial career here taking control of Idol and Rich...Dale Veasy, better known as the Hunter here is feuding with Alan West.

APRIL

Bruno offered $5000 to anyone who could unmask BT Express as Billy travis... Eddie Marlin had ruled htat if Billy was found under the mask, he would be suspended from the area...In a six man tag pitting Mr. Helo, Mr. Shima and Tanaka against Jarrett, Billy (opps...BT, not Billy yet), and Paul Diamond, Paul turned heel and helped Pat unmask Billy (now it's Billy)...they appeared to fight over who was going to get the money, but Bruno had things settled down and that was the beginning of the Tanaka-Diamond team...Rocky Johnson is in and teamed with Soul train to win the Southern Tag belts...with Billy Travis suspended, Jeff came out and made an offer to the Downtown Connection...he would wrestle a handicap bout against Tanaka and Diamond...He put up $5000 and Jerry Lawler sweetenedthe pot by adding another $5000...stips were that if Tanaka and Diamond won the match in 10 minutes, they got to keep the money and Billy was still gone...If they failed to win, Billy go to return...Billy Travis is back with Memphis....Jack Hart is in...Jonathan Boyd and boy Tony are gone.

MAY

Jerry Lawler lost his hair to the shock of Memphis fans...he was signed to a steel cage match (what other kind of cage is there?) where if he lost, he lost his hair and his opponent, Austin Idol, would have had to refund everyone"s admission price...Tommy rich hid under the ring and after a ref bump, came out and helped Idol destroy Lawler...Bruno also lost his hair in another incident...Bill Dundee returned as a babyface to help Lawler...lots of title changes as well as arrivals and departures... no one of any significance came in...Bubba and goliath are both gone as is Dale Veasy.

JUNE

rich and Lawler continue to feud...Idol has left the area with out any revenge being exacted on Lawler"s part...in one instance, Rich was approached by a lady who wanted an autograph...the lady turned out to be Lawler who then ripped off the dress and wig and attacked Rich...Dangerously offer Bill dundee a chanceto become part of the Dangerous Alliance by giving him his American Express card to use for thirty days...Dundee took the card and started to walk off but Dangerously stopped him...Paul was positioned with his back to the dressing room and Lawler slipped out behind him and stripped him of his pants...Tony Burton, who started here last year as the Ninja, turned babyface over a two week period...after losing some matches on TV, Tojo Yamamoto hit him with his kendo stick...Burton retaliated and turned...Brickhouse Brown turned heel after refereeing some matches...Jeff Jarrett feuded with Moondog Spot ofver the Mid American title,,,Dundee will feud with Diamond and Tanaka after he won a battle royal and got doubled on afterwards...Dundee will take Rocky Johnson as his partner...Big Bubba turned babyface and will feud with whoever Downtown Bruno can find...this month it was Earthquake Ferris.

JULY

Brickhouse Brown is calling himself Prince; fans are calling him Outhouse, Buckwheat, and &*$#(house...Bruno brought in Bill Smithson as moondog Spike...George Barnes, Bill Dundee"s first tag team partner is in and teaming with Bill however George doesn't appear to know that Bill is now a babyface...a feud developed here between the two...Also in are the Clones, Mike and Pat Kelly however shortly after coming in, one suffered a legit injury and they disappeared shortly thereafter...Earthquake Ferris didn't last long and he was replaced with Rick Link a.k.a. Man Mountain Link who makes Ferris compare favorably to Tiger Mask...Don Bass is lip synching country western records with his new gimmick of the singing cowboy...looks a lot like a japanese movie...Link was gone after just one match....Brown was reduced to opening matches instead of main eventing against Lawler by the end of the month.

AUGUST

Brickhouse was once again promoted to the forefront by forming 'the Commission" with wrestlers Pat Tanaka, Paul Diamond, Don Bass and Downtown Bruno...gimmick matches were the rule here this month starting with the Price is Right Matches...a trivia game was played with the winners geting to choose a special referee...Lawler and rocky johnson beat Brickhouse and Bass in the game and chose Big Bubba as a special referee in the next monday night card...In addition, each wrestler had to decide on two sacrifices he would be willing to make should he be pinned. The opponents go to choose which sacrifice would be used...the match itself saw Jerry Lawler getting pinned when referee Bubba turned heel and Lawler lose his Southern title to Bass...the group hosted a fan club from Philadelphia during the first half of the month...Dream matches continued across the territory with the first half of the card's winners getting to choose their dream match in the second half of the card...Carl Fergie, former UWF referee is in as part of the commission calling himself King Carl...Scott Hall returned to help out Lawler in his feud with the commission...Tracy Smothers returned as well and is doing the southern rebel gimmick.

SEPTEMBER

Gimmick matches are about to wear themselves out...they are now running Wheel of Torture matches where the two participants spin a wheel that has punishments listed instead of money like on the game show....the

loser must do what ever came up on the wheel...tortures included eating dog food, running a gauntlet, and getting shocked with an electric cattle prod...departures include George barnes...Bruno left after his wrestler lost a loser leave town match for him...Bobby jaggers came in as a heel... Prince brought in the Knights of Darkness for one night...Diamond and Tanaka (as Heels) are feuding with the Nasty Boys (as faces)...the RPMs have returned and they exchanged the southern tag titles with the Nasty Boys over the month...Steve Armstrong came in ot team with Tracy Smothers and feud with Diamond and Tanaka.

OCTOBER

In an attempt to get Brickhouse and his commission over with the fans they"ve been having wild brawls that went as far as Carl Fergie"s head pushed into a toilet with a plunger...in separate incidences, Lawer and Dundee were attacked by members of the commission and that sets the stage for Lawler and Dundee to team against them...Steve Armstrong left after just a short stay on his way back to Continental...Steve Keirn is back and turned heel, but the crowds never really accepted him that was, even after he attacked Jerry Lawler...The midnight Rockers are in...Hector Guerrero is in as a heel as well...Carl Styles donned a mask and became Dr. D...they"ve had trouble getting a manager to draw any heat since Bruno left and the latest attempt is Nate the Rat.

NOVEMBER

steve Keirn left...Necomers this month include Jimmy Jack Funk and Manny fernandez...Hector has some sort of a hair removal cream and used it on Jim Jammeson...Jammeson came back out of the dressing room with a strip of hair missing...Lawler got the cream by coming out with a toy gun that Hector thought was real...Lawler is concentrating his feud here rather than with Brickhouse...Diamond and Tanaka turned face to feud with him instead...they brought out their body guard who just happened to be Big Bubba (not Jim Cornette's Bubba)...Rocky Johnson is in some legal trouble as he was accused of raping a teenaged girl...he was acquitted of those charges after the first of the year...more newcomers since the first of the month are Austin Idol (who surprisingly came in as a babyface) but he didn't last long and Teijo Khan...Idol will team with Dundee against Hector and Fernandez while he"s here.

DECEMBER

Mark Guleen is in as a manager and in two weeks time, managed to sign the Midnight Rockers turning them heel...It was announced that the three singles titles will be merged into one. Jerry Lawler (southern Champ), Jeff Jarrett (Mid America Champ), and Manny Fernandez (International Champ) will wrestle in a one night tournament...Jarrett and Lawler opened with Lawler winning basically a scientific match...Lawler then won the next match from Fernandez on DQ...after that match, Jerry was injured and so he chose Jeff to replace him in an AWA championship match that the winner of the tournament had been promised...Scott Hall returned from a Japan trip...Ken Wayne of the nightmares is back in...the promotion is using quite a few of the students from Bill Dundee's wrestling school... Jerry Lawler won a king of the ring tournament in Memphis where the winner got a "$25,000" ring.

The preceding reports were taken from a year's worth of Wrestling Forums. We hope this gives you a comprehensive look at 1987. We did not include Coninental reports because we didn't have a reporter from there full time, nor Japan reports because noone can cover the Japan wrestling scene like Dave Meltzer. Hope you enjoyed.

PHANTOM OF THE RING
BY ED GAREA
THE PHANNIES

Yes, gang, it's once again time for the Phannies, the awards for those who did the least with the most and for those who did the least with the least. Our list is lond, so no further talk-on with the show.
WORST PROMOTION-I can't choose Fritz or Verne for this; after all, that is too easy what with all the help they give. Also, I don't consider GLOW or POWW a promotion; they belong more to the world of burlesque than wrestling, and also give us a clue as to why burlesque is dead. No, the choice here is non other than Jim Crockett Promotions. They had it within their grasp and blew it. They fumbled Starrcade; they drove three promotions into the ground just by purchasing them; they have managed to alienate the fans in their home base of Charlotte, N.C., a very difficult thing to do. Their television is beyond stale; thrity years later, they can run a reunion show with the same people. Dusty must hold the world"s record for running promotions into the ground: Central States, Florida (twice), and the UWF. Crockett's only hope of ruining the WWF is to buy it and let Dusty run it.
WORST WRESTLER-Nah, this is too easy. I could go on forever. Let's just call it a draw among 20 I could name offhand.
WORST FEUD-Easily Garvin vs. Flair, wherein Flair lost the Title-No One Cares About Anymore to Ronnie who kept it warm for Ric until Starrcade when Ric reluctantly took it back. During this time, Ric learned how to make out with mannikins, make a complete fool of himself on interviews, and showed us why he is desperately in need of glasses after mistaking Ronnie Garvin for a woman, though many have made the same mistake with Moolah.
WORST MATCH-Easily the Inoki vs. Saito all-day fiasco that took place on some island in Japan (Monster Island?) I've seen better kung-fu movies, for god's sake.
WORST TV SHOW-Inoki's attempt to imitate Vince"s TNT show on Japanese television, which almost killed the promotion. It didn't work for Vince, what made Inoki think it would work for him? It must be that remarkable business sense of his. Aren't you lucky Inoki wasn't in charge of your fortune during the recent Wall Street crash.
WORST LONG JOHN SILVER IMPRESSION-Pete Doughtery, erstwhile WWF color announcer, who manages to sound as if he came straight out of a "B" pirate movie with too much of the "Yo ho ho, and a bottle of rum". His insightful color commentary makes one think if we're watching the same match. All-in-all, he's not about to make us forget Yosemite Sam.
WORST ANNOUNCER-David Crockett, whose voice seems permanently set on "loud". Team him up with Doughtery and you"ve got a pair that can clear any television channel. What a pair they would make.
MOST OVERRATED-No contest. Old Dr. Death himself wins this one hands down; at least based on his work in this country and considering his amateur background. It seems that Ted DiBiase took more than himself to the WWF; he also took Doc"s work-rate.
WORST HUMILIATION-Harley Race, former seven-time NWA champion, now just another geek in Vince"s traveling road show. Imagine having to carry Jim Duggan every other night. Wow.
BEST SLOB-Hacksaw Duggan. This act is so good that it makes us think whether or not it's for real.
WORST RUSSIAN-Vladimir Petrov. At least they should have given him some Cortina language records. He takes over for last year's winner, Krusher Kruschev, whose southern accent could have only led us to believe that he was from Soviet Georgia.
WORST ROAD WARRIOR CLONES-Demolition. Between them they"ve got one good knee. If Vince ever were to sign the Road Warriors, how many seconds do

you think it would take him to get rid of the Demolition?
WORST VINCE MCMAHON CLONE-David McLane, who wants to be Vince someday when he grows up.
MOST EMBARRASSING TV SHOW TO WATCH-GLOW. I hope they feel as silly making it as I do watching it.
MOST SENILE ANNOUNCER-Dick the Bruiser. Does this guy know where he is?
MOST IN NEED OF ANN LANDERS' ADVICE-Fritz Von Erich.
SILLIEST IDEA-The "Von Erichs Over America" tour. All this one needed was Jim and Tammy for added punch. P.S. Was Fritz running the Dallas Cowboys this season or has Fritz finally met his match in Bum Bright?
BIGGEST SUCKER OR "I'VE GOT A LIVE ONE" AWARD-Bum Bright.
BEST REASON FOR THE STOCK MARKET CRASH-Global Wrestling in Florida going public. Who bought the stock? Bum Bright? Who sold the stock? Antonio Inoki?
WORST PREDICTION-Yours truly, who in the last yearbook, said that Wrestlemania III would bomb. Shows how much I know.
WORST CASE OF BURN-OUT-The Rock n' Roll Express.
LEAST IMPROVED-Butch Reed. As long as he's been in the game and as much as he"s been pushed by various promotions, you"d think he"d be as least a little better.
BIGGEST EGO-Akira Maeda. Closely following are Dusty Rhodes and the Hulkster.
KING MOONDOG AWARD FOR BEST RELATIONS WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS-Bob Orton Jr.
"I LOST IT AT THE GO-GO" AWARD-Ben Bessarab.
MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO BE A POLL WATCHER IN HAITI AWARD-Bill Apter.
ABSOLUTELY THE WORST FINISHING MANEUVER AWARD-Ron Garvin. (The award is a statue of da Crusher missing a bolo punch.)
SHOULD HAVE STAYED A REFEREE AWARD-Danny Davis.
CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE DON'T DO ANY BUSINESS AWARD-Verne Gagne.
BUM BRIGHT AWARD FOR TELEVISION EXCELLENCE-ESPN for sticking with the AWA.
WORST MANAGER_Mr. Fuji.. Not only can't I see this guy in any meaningful angle, I can't even understand him on interviews.
SONNY LISTON PHANTOM PUNCH AWARD-Brian Adidas. That punch was so quick, no one in World Class saw it, including Brian.
THE I DON'T GET ANY RESPECT BECAUSE I DON'T DESERVE ANY AWARD-Greg Gagne. And now.....
THE PHANNIE OF THE YEAR (Winner of WORST IDEA FOR AN AWARDS SHOW, WORST IDEA FOR A TELEVISION SHOW, and WORST IDEA FOR A BAD IDEA)-What else? The Slammies. When McMahon came out and said "Welcome to the Circus Maximus!" with that tone of voice, I knew what lay ahead. With everyone"s favorite Executive Producer, Kay Fabe (Winner of WORST PRODUCER), and everyone"s favorite video star, Gene Okerland (Winner of IF THIS VIDEO WERE SHOWN TO PRISONERS THE SUPREME COURT WOULD RULE IT CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT AWARD, and the BROKEN ARM FROM PATTING MYSELF ON THE BACK AWARD, plus the ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF SHAME AWARD for his monumental video achievement, "Rock and Roll Hootchie Koo".) The Slammies were clearly the biggest insult to our intelligence since the last Democratic Convention and only half as entertaining. Are there any marks left after this debacle? About the only thing of comfort one could say is that Vince and Gene are so tasteless they could belong in professional wrestling. But they <u>are</u> in professional wrestling and so that argument is squashed.¶
And they have the audacity to think that bulletins are ruining wrestling? Well Vince, Phannies off to you, you certainly

deserve it.

Before I take my leave, i'd like to inject a serious note. I have seen the future of wrestling and it is pay-per-view. With the shrinking of promotions and the resulting low house gates, pay-per-view is the most economical way of making a profit. But what will this do to wrestling? Perhaps nothing; many people are convinced that independent promotions will survive and thrive, but I don't see it; at least not from the gates they are drawing. I see wrestling eventually coming down to the WWF and Crockett on the periphery. Fewer promotions mean fewer dates and thus fewer workers. Where the new blood needed to sustain interest will come from is anyone"s guess at this point. We shall see. I hope I'm wrong (again.)

§§§

wrestle and who's first names are Quick Draw and Prince?...5. Who are three people you could buy a used car from?

BIG EVENTS

1. What is the AWA?...2. Who were the cable operators?...3. Who is Dusty rhodes?...4. Who were the Mulkey Brothers? 5. Who are two people who should never be allowed near a polling place?

TV

1. Which network had no coverage of wrestling in 1987? 2. What is Tommy rich's belly button? 3. When does ESPN put on AWA wrestling? 4. What is Jim Duggan's 2 x 4? 5. Why did CBS have a dramatic rise in Saturday morning ratings?

POTPOURI

1. What is the difference between the WWF Magazine and Pravda? 2. What is Dave Sheldon called by Mark Lowrance after too many trips to the bar? 3. Where is Norwegia? 4. Who is the only wrestler who would give Carmine Despirito of Wrestling Eye an interview this past year? 5. Who will Kevin Von Erich and Rick Hazard never make passes at again?

I guess that just about wraps up the yearbook. It's been a real job putting everything together this year, but it was also a lot of fun.

I'd like to say a special thank you to those of you who voted in this year's awards. We set a record with ninety four ballots cast. Our mailman is just now recovering from the amount of mail we received during the voting period. Now is a good time to start thinking about next year"s awards as well. It seems that the angles and things from the beginning of the year never get as much attention as those done in the last quarter.

If there is something you"d like to see in future yearbooks, let me know. We"re always open to suggestions.

I had planned on this being done on February 5th. Then I got Dave Meltzer's masterpiece. We had copied some of the same stuff, so about 17-20 pages had to be reworked. I saw no reason in you all paying $10.00 for the exact same information. That put us a little behind. Next year, I'm going to start a little earlier.

As I type this, it's the middle of February. Sorry we took so long, but after reading what we"ve assembled, we hope that you find that the wait was worth it.

INCREDIBLY STUPID STATISTIC DEPARTMENT: What would we be wihout our old standby? Seven disposable typewritter ribbons were used in typing this thing. We used two cases of copy paper. We used four correction tapes and if we went back and corrected all the typographical errors, you could probably add another to that. Somewhere close to 145 hours went into the typing and researching alone...that's almost a month at 40 hours per week. And finally, an estimated 465,206 swear words will be hurled at the photocopier by the time we"re done printing.

That's all he wrote! See you in the pages of Wrestling Forum!

PS...FINAL JEOPARDY QUESTION: The first names of all 93,176 people who attended Wrestlemania live. Ready? Who are John, Pete, Mary, Lisa, Bill, Steve, David, Gilbert oh hey! Tony! Look! We're out of time! We gotta go!

Bye! Jim Gallagher

4-31